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New York

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Mohamad (Sudan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Agenda item 136 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/64/631/Add.8)

The Acting President: I should like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/64/631/Add.8, in which the Secretary-General informs the President of the General Assembly that, since the issuance of his communications contained in documents A/64/631 and addenda 1 to 7, Saint Kitts and Nevis has made the necessary payments to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter. May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in that document?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 126 (*continued*)

Sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

Special solemn meeting in commemoration of all victims of the war

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now resume its consideration of agenda item 126 in order to hold a special solemn meeting in commemoration of all victims of the Second World War, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/257, of 2 March 2010.

On behalf of His Excellency Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, President of the General Assembly, I welcome all participants to this solemn meeting, as we gather today to mark the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. As we celebrate the end of one of the deadliest conflicts in human history, we also reflect on the immeasurable human cost of war. We are reminded yet again that we need to intensify our efforts to settle all disputes by peaceful means and reinforce our international, regional and subregional mechanisms in order to better tackle the threats and challenges we face today. Collectively, and with the needed political will, we can reinforce international peace and security around the globe and ensure a better future for coming generations.

The General Assembly, by its resolution 64/257, unanimously decided to hold a special solemn meeting to commemorate all victims of war. More than six decades ago, the wars of aggression claimed the lives of more than 60 million people. Civilians made up more than half of those who lost their lives during the war. Sixty-five years later, we honour those who fought to restore peace and freedom.

The end of the Second World War united victors and survivors in their desire for a better world. World leaders agreed never again to allow such atrocities to take place. Some six weeks after the end of the Second World War, the United Nations was established "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

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The United Nations was founded on the promise of peace and friendly relations among nations. Maintaining international peace and security remains the principal purpose of the United Nations. We are reminded today that there are still armed conflicts in the world and that civilians continue to pay a heavy price in armed conflicts.

The international community has striven to achieve progress towards reconciliation, cooperation and the promotion of democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms. We must renew that commitment. We must continue on our path towards a world in which peace, security and prosperity for all reign. Today's meeting is an excellent opportunity to renew our resolve to achieve that goal.

It gives me great pleasure to give the floor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: The names and places resonate despite the passing of many years: Stalingrad and Kursk; Auschwitz and Dachau; D-Day and the final battle for Berlin. Today, we mark the anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe — the last, we hope, of the world's total wars. Its cost was beyond calculation, beyond comprehension: 40 million civilians dead; 20 million soldiers, nearly half of those in the Soviet Union alone. Those were years of unspeakable atrocities, of lost faith and lost humanity.

Those years saw extraordinary bravery as well. The Second World War was one of the most epic struggles for freedom and liberation in history. And, in the end, idealism had its triumph too. Sixty-five years ago, in San Francisco, delegates had just begun writing the Charter of the United Nations, an Organization founded on that most human of hopes: an end to the scourge of war.

So, it is fitting today that we commemorate the war's end at a moment when nations are gathered to advance the cause of peace. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is also a document of hope: a vision for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Thanks to you, participants, we are making progress along that road. Thank you for helping us to remember the past so that we may better shape our future.

The Acting President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I call on the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Today's meeting of the General Assembly is dedicated to an event that determined the fate of all humankind — and of all the world's peoples. Sixty-five years ago, States describing themselves as the United Nations and as the anti-Hitler coalition won a historic victory over Naziism.

I wish at the outset to read out an address by Mr. Dmitry A. Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation.

> "My cordial greetings go to participants in the solemn meeting of the General Assembly in commemoration of all victims of the Second World War.
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> "The great victory over fascism was won 65 years ago. The plots of perfidious aggressors, who drew more than 60 States into a bloody war, failed. Through colossal common effort and enormous losses, a grave threat to the very principles that form the basis of civilization was averted. The memory of the heroism of all those who, in pursuit of our common victory, selflessly fought for the future of succeeding generations lives in our hearts.
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> "Losses were suffered by nearly every family in the Soviet Union, on whom Hitler's military machine rained down in all its might. The tens of millions of lost lives will remain etched in our memories forever. Never shall we forget the boundless support and heartfelt compassion we experienced during those tragic years when a vivid awareness of the threat of annihilation united the peoples and countries on different continents and when a shared spirit of solidarity and allied interests brought nations together in a common front for a righteous cause.
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> "During the upcoming commemoration to be held in Moscow on 9 May, we shall recall all of this with pride and with pain. We shall pay tribute to the heroism of veterans — all those who prevented a global catastrophe. I take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all heads of State or Government and to all foreign guests who will participate in those

commemorative events. In Russia, this holiday is infused with special meaning.

"Today, while recalling the events of the cruellest of wars, we must understand the horrendous consequences of violence, racial and religious intolerance. Against that backdrop, the main objective of strengthening the potential of the United Nations, created by the international community to prevent new wars, becomes ever more important. Throughout all these years, the United Nations has continued to serve as the framework for contemporary international relations. The objectives set out for the Organization are still relevant. The most important of these are the establishment of an equitable world order based on the principles of humanism and mutually beneficial cooperation, the effective maintenance of international peace and security, and contributing to progressive development in the political, socio-economic, cultural, humanitarian and other areas.

"The harsh lessons of the Second World War teach us the need for solidarity in the fight against contemporary threats, respect for the norms of international law, without which a secure existence and a sustainable world order are impossible. It is only through the joint efforts of the entire international community that we shall be able to effectively confront terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and all forms of discrimination.

"The victory came at the cost of immense sacrifice. Bearing this ever in mind, we must resolutely rebuff cynical, politically motivated attempts to rewrite history and revise the outcomes and decisions of the Nuremberg Tribunal. Our shared duty, both to the soldier-liberators and to future generations, is to protect the truth about the war and the significance of the victory, and to resolutely oppose those who desecrate the glory of the heroes who defeated fascism.

"Let us forever cherish the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the name of victory, who fell in battles, who died of injuries and exhaustion, and who were tortured to death in concentration camps. Let us bow our heads in honour of their memory."

Today's meeting of the General Assembly is all the more special because of the presence of veterans of the Second World War. It was their heroism, as well as the efforts of those who worked on the home front, that forged the historic victory and secured a world free of the horrors of national socialism. The world, and not just the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the countries of Europe, will forever owe a debt that can never be repaid to those who won our freedom and independence in those fierce battles. We bow our heads in respect to these honoured veterans.

In Russia, we remember and cherish the exploits of the multinational people of the Soviet Union. It is an undisputed fact that the most significant and crucial events in the victory took place on the Soviet-German front. The battles of Moscow, Stalingrad and Kursk; the operations to liberate Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary; the battle for Berlin are all revered chapters of global military history. It was the Red Army that, on 27 January 1945, liberated the Auschwitz concentration camp. This date is now celebrated as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Victory in the Second World War was also to a large extent secured by means of a breakthrough on the diplomatic front. The creation of an anti-Hitler coalition was perhaps the most significant event in the history of diplomacy. We shall always remember the help of our allies — the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France and other Governments of the anti-Hitler coalition. We are sincerely grateful to those who supported the Soviet Union during the years of war, demonstrated fraternal solidarity, and supplied us with medicine, food and arms. We highly value the contributions of those who opened the second front in Europe and fought on other fronts of the World War.

Today we pay tribute to the courage of all those Europeans who resisted Nazism. Nazism brought immeasurable suffering to the German people. We will never forget the German anti-fascists who suffered for the ideals of a democratic future for Germany, which today is a friend and important partner of Russia on the international arena.

Sixty-five years ago, we achieved a common victory over a common enemy. It was a victory that united our peoples and that current and future generations have not only the right, but indeed the duty

to be proud of. Our common responsibility is to follow that important example. Only then shall we be able to fulfil the main legacy of the authors of the United Nations Charter — "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

Mr. Rybakov (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): It is my great pleasure and honour at this commemorative meeting to read out an address by His Excellency Mr. Alyaksandr Lukashenka, President of the Republic of Belarus:

> "On the eve of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the great victory over Nazism, I address the United Nations as the leader of a State whose long-suffering people withstood the ordeal and horrors of the war. Belarus was never an initiator of aggression or international conflict, but as a result of its geographical location our land has on several occasions become an arena of devastating wars.
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> "As a result of the inhuman genocide of the Second World War, Belarus lost a third of its citizens. Only the ashes of burnt-down villages and ruins where cities once stood were a reminder of the country's infrastructure, which was almost entirely destroyed. No other country suffered such horrible devastation.
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> "Unfortunately, the subject of the Second World War has recently been interpreted in such a way as if it were only the Western European States and the United States of America that won and served as guarantors of peace for decades. We shall not understate the contribution of any State of the anti-Hitler coalition, but let us not forget that the main thrust of the fascist aggression was directed against the Soviet Union, whose peoples were condemned to total annihilation. It was the Soviet Union that rebuffed that attack. The Soviet-German front line was four times as long as all of western fronts put together. It was at this front that Hitler's Germany suffered 75 per cent of all its casualties.
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> "We are rightfully proud that Belarus, together with the other peoples of the Soviet Union, made a principal contribution to the great victory over fascism. We liberated not only our territory, but the whole of Europe, giving the continent a chance to be as prosperous and successful as it is now. No one should forget who truly brought freedom and peace to Europe for many decades. The European unity of today is founded on the victory of 1945.
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> "Yet in a paradoxical twist of life, the united Europe that once thanked its liberators with tears in its eyes is today in no hurry to invite into the common home those who did not spare their own lives to save it from fascist slavery. Europe fences itself off by various restrictions and far-fetched claims.
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> "My people have a genetically instilled code of understanding that any confrontation among States is life-threatening as it can grow into a global catastrophe. That is why the sovereign European Belarus has persistently and consistently pursued an exclusively peace-loving foreign policy.
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> "Sixty-five years, ago the victorious States set for future generations the tremendous moral and political task of drawing the right lessons from history and of forever preventing global tragedies from recurring. Our response to the challenges of today should be a rapprochement of peoples on the basis of humanity and universal spiritual values.
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> "It is high time to relegate to the dustbin of the cold war stereotypes of good or bad States that create dividing lines even between countries that once fought together against fascism. I am convinced that the noblest manifestation of respect we could pay to the memory of that generation would be to adopt a just and non-confrontational policy of multilateral cooperation and joint opposition to common threats, with a view to preventing deadly conflicts.
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> "The tragic experience of the Second World War led the international community, including Belarus, to establish the United Nations. Regrettably, however, the many causes of war — which require joint and decisive action by all States to address — are not things of the past. The disturbing list of those causes include aspirations to world supremacy, poverty, artificial barriers to trade, xenophobia, fanaticism and ignoring the right of peoples to chose their own path to development while imposing a single model of development.

"Belarus has always been and will continue to be an important factor in the security and stability of the European continent and the world as a whole. The United Nations has in us a reliable and active partner in combating the illicit proliferation of nuclear weapons and fissile material, the trafficking in drugs and persons, illicit migration and attempts to rewrite the outcome of the Second World War. The citizens of Belarus will continue to spare no effort to promote cooperation, peace and stability."

Mr. Yáñez-Barnuevo (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; potential candidates and countries of the Stabilization and Association Process Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; as well as the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan align themselves with this statement.

We are here today to solemnly commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. We have come together to mourn the deaths of the military and civilian men, women and children who lost their lives as victims of war. We have also come together not only to condemn totalitarian ideologies, but also ideologies that incite the hatred, intolerance, racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia that were so deeply rooted in a conflict that — as pointed in the second preambular paragraph of resolution 64/257, echoing the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations — "brought untold sorrow to mankind". We also want to stress our rejection of any new form of exclusion — be it motivated by economic, religious, gender or any other reason — that could pose a threat to our citizens today.

Our purpose here today is to remember the innocent victims of the war and to underscore the fundamental values that led to the establishment of the United Nations. Although it has been repeated on countless occasions, we should always bear in mind the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations, wherein we together agreed to resolve ourselves to

"reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

"to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

"to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

At the same time, we wish to express our deep gratitude to the millions of people who gave their lives so that countries in Asia, Africa and Europe could live in peace, confident that human rights would be respected. For Europe, not only did the Second World War take place in a large portion of our continent; it also took the lives of many Europeans, ruined the economy and resources of Europe and caused incalculable damage. As a result, the European spirit was profoundly affected and the continent's place in the world put into question.

Since the end of the Second World War, Europe has striven to put an end to attacks on democracy. It has often been said that crises give rise to progress and provide an opportunity for reflection and action. Without a doubt, the history of the European Union can be seen as the history of a success that is intimately linked to the ravages of war. With a view to preserving Europe from those horrors, some wise and visionary European leaders launched a new project — European integration — which was both a vision for overcoming the horrors of the past and a road map towards that new vision. That project was launched 60 years ago on 9 May. Today, we celebrate that date as Europe Day, a day of peace and unity.

That vision has proven to be sound, for it has brought stability, progress and solidarity to the continent. More recently, it has allowed us to take another step forward towards a new Europe united under the Lisbon Treaty, whose goal is to strengthen Europe's voice in the world. The preamble to the Treaty, which entered into force on 1 December 2009, recalls "the historic importance of the ending of the division of the European continent and the need to create firm bases for the construction of the future Europe" and confirms our "attachment to the principles of liberty, democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and of the rule of law".

Today, our continent and the entire world face new challenges of varying kinds, in particular those highlighted at the Millennium Summit. We have the necessary resources, technology and experience to

promote development, security, human rights and the rule of law throughout the world. We share common interests in achieving those goals. We should join our efforts to meet those challenges, as we did almost 65 years ago when peace and freedom defeated war and oppression.

On this day of commemoration, our thoughts are with those who suffered and sacrificed their lives for our freedom and, consequently, for the goals of the Charter of the United Nations. At the same time, we invest our hopes and resolve in our common future and in the progress that all of us have agreed together to achieve in the General Assembly.

Mrs. Atayeva (Turkmenistan) (*spoke in Russian*): On the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, there has been a renewed upsurge of general interest in the root causes of and direct reasons for the conduct and consequences of the bloodiest of conflicts in human history. An honest and objective assessment of events and the facts concerning those harsh years is needed today, not only to honour the memory of the tens of millions of those who died in the fight against fascism, but also as lessons to current and succeeding generations.

The truth about the war is necessary for a correct understanding of its lessons, given the current trends of global development aimed at bringing together all peace-loving democratic forces to meet the threats and challenges of the twenty-first century, in which the world faces the threats of terrorism, violent propaganda and inter-ethnic and religious intolerance.

In independent and neutral Turkmenistan, as in all countries, we recognize the scale of our common victory over Nazism, the evilest of scourges of the twentieth century. Even though the Great Patriotic War, which was an integral part of the Second World War, was fought far from the borders of our country, its repercussions reached into every Turkmen home. There was no family in Turkmenistan that did not in some way feel the dark impact of the war, which left a tragic stamp on the fate of our people.

From the very first days of the war, all life in Turkmenistan and other Soviet Union republics was put on a war footing. Turkmen soldiers fought on all fronts. Over 78,000 were decorated with titles and medals; over 100 individuals were decorated with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Twenty became full knights of the Order of Glory. A great many Turkmen soldiers fought as partisans, and tens of thousands fought in battles for their homeland, and the Turkmen people are proud of their exploits.

During the war years, Turkmenistan served as one of the most important home fronts, and the heroism of those who worked on the home front was in no way less than that of those who fought on the battlefields. A great many people were evacuated from fronts to Turkmenistan in these very difficult circumstances.

The main burden of work in the collective and state farms fell on women, the elderly and the young. The Turkmen people opened their homes to close to 32,000 women, children and elderly people who were forced by the war to leave their homes.

During the war years, 38 military hospitals were founded in Turkmenistan, at which over 43,000 injured soldiers were treated. A great many of those returned to the front afterwards. Workers in Turkmenistan worked full-bore to contribute to victory.

Gifts were sent and clothes and resources gathered for the construction of tanks and aircraft for the front. As a result of these donations, seven tank columns and seven squadrons of aircraft were purchased. It is particularly noteworthy that Turkmen women contributed 7,390 kilos of gold and silver in the form of silver and gold ethnic jewellery, to the defence funds. This comprised close to 80 per cent of all noble metals collected throughout the country at the time.

The people of Turkmenistan will never forget the enormous contribution made by its valiant sons, daughters and steadfast workers to our common victory over fascism. We cherish the memory of the soldiers who fell in the war and those who returned to their homes following victory. Their names have all been inscribed in remembrance books. Every participant in the war is accorded the greatest care and consideration.

The Second World War was the most bloodthirsty and destructive war, but it came to an end and its outcome led to significant political changes on the international stage. A trend towards cooperation between States with different social systems gradually emerged with the aim of preventing new global conflicts. In the post-war period, a system of security and cooperation among countries was established. At the end of the war, the United Nations was created.

The President of Turkmenistan, Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, speaking in this Assembly,

highlighted that Turkmenistan, whose neutral status is supported by resolution 50/80 A, is a consistent champion of the strengthening of the role and influence of the United Nations in international affairs and committed to upholding global peace and security. All our cooperative initiatives with the United Nations are aimed at achieving these objectives.

Today, we extend our gratitude to and mark the memory of all those who fought on the battlefields of the war to allow us to live on this Earth. Our repeated commemorations of the exploits of our sons and daughters are historically just. The world would be a very different place if the Soviet people had not survived those very difficult war years. We bow to them for having saved the world, for clear skies and for having given us the gift of life. Our duty is to come together and to preserve their memory for future generations.

Mr. Aslov (Tajikistan) (*spoke in Russian*): Allow me to thank you, Sir, for having convened this special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly devoted to the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Belarus and Turkmenistan.

Throughout human history, events of increasing scale and importance have taken place. Among such unforgettable events was the victory over fascism, the sixty-fifth anniversary of which is so widely marked by the international community this year. This historic date is sacred to veterans of the war, the elderly and post-war generations, as it symbolizes the patriotism, selflessness, steadfastness and courage of our parents and grandparents.

Alongside the other peoples who rose up against the fascist threat, the people of Tajikistan contributed to ensuring this historic victory. Over 300,000 Tajiks, some one fifth of its population, fought on fronts with valour and heroism; 92,000 fell on the battlefield. During those harsh years, it was difficult to find a single family that was not impacted by the bitter war. Over 50,000 Tajiks were awarded medals and titles; 54 were recognized with the highest State honour, Hero of the Soviet Union. During the war years, the 98th infantry unit, the 98th and the 140th cavalry brigades, the 61st cavalry division and the 31st battalion were formed in Tajikistan.

The people of Tajikistan donated their savings to form and send to the front a tank column and a fighter squadron. Artillery and other military specialists were inducted and trained at military academies evacuated to the capital of Tajikistan from western cities of the Soviet Union, including the Kharkov technical aviation institute, the Volchansk military school of aviation mechanics and the Orlovsk infantry academy.

During the war years, Tajiks contributed some 1 billion rubles and 655,200 kilograms of grain. The country manufactured weapons, uniforms and parachutes. Factories in Feodosiya, Simferopol, Poltava, Moscow and other cities of the western Soviet Union removed to Tajikistan. Tajikistan sent necessary food and other products to the front.

The victory achieved in the Second World War is of special importance in today's circumstances, when the international community must pool its efforts against new global challenges and threats. The States Members of the United Nations must spare no effort to settle all disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and in a manner that safeguards international peace and security. That is what resolution 64/257, adopted unanimously on 2 March 2010 and entitled "Sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War", calls upon us to do.

Mrs. Aitimova (Kazakhstan) (*spoke in Russian*): We are all gathered here today at the United Nations to pay tribute to the memory of the heroes and victims of the Second World War. The war taught humankind the harsh lesson that we cannot accept the deaths and suffering of millions of individuals. No single idea, concept or political philosophy can justify the pain suffered in the war. On this day, I wish from this high rostrum to express my deep gratitude to all those who, through their timeless exploits on the battlefield and their selfless labour on the home front, saved humankind from the scourge of fascism. I bow to their memory.

The war affected almost every family of our common country, the Soviet Union. I am the daughter of a soldier who fought the war from beginning to end. Despite his injuries, my father, like many others, returned to the front repeatedly. We owe our hard-won victory to the memory, resolve and heroism of the defenders of our country. Victory was achieved not only by force of arms, but also by the spirit of the peoples of the Commonwealth of Independent States

(CIS) and the anti-Hitler coalition. We gave everything to achieve victory. More than 1.7 million Kazakhs participated in the war. Sadly, the sixty-fifth anniversary of the victory is being marked by just over 50,000 veterans of the war, for close to half a million sons and daughters of Kazakhstan did not return from the battlefields.

In decorating veterans with commemorative medals, President Nazarbayev said that their heroism set an example of surpassing love for one's homeland. For their actions in the Great Patriotic War, close to 500 Kazakhs — four of them twice — were awarded the highest recognition as Heroes of the Soviet Union. With respect to the quality of Soviet heroism, it may not be appropriate to count numbers, but we and everyone here must do so. From this high rostrum, we merely seek to underscore the meaning of the Second World War to each citizen of our former common homeland. Kazakhstan is fifth in the number of citizens named Hero of the Soviet Union, and 110 Kazakhs were awarded third-class Orders of Glory.

In protecting Soviet lands, Kazakh Heroes of the Soviet Union showed great courage and heroism. We pay tribute to the exploits and recognize the prowess of the guards of the Fourth Infantry Division, which was formed in Kazakhstan and participated in the Battle of Moscow. The glory of their actions is known far beyond the borders of the former Soviet Union and the CIS. Twenty-eight Kazakh soldiers, engaged in the bitter fighting at Dubosekovo Station just outside Moscow, prevented fascist tanks from breaking through to the capital at the critical moment. All of them died, and all were recognized — posthumously, unfortunately — as Heroes of the Soviet Union. In the history of that terrible war, we will forever remember the words of the guards: even though the country was enormous, not a single square centimetre could be ceded, because the entire country was sacred to us.

The war drew no distinction between men and women. I therefore believe it necessary to read out the names of the daughters of the Kazakh people — infantrywoman Manshuk Mamyetova and sniper Alia Moldagulova — who became heroic representatives of the Soviet East and were decorated with the highest military honour as Heroes of the Soviet Union. My fellow countrywomen fought in the defence of Brest, at the Kursk Bulge and in the Battle of Stalingrad, and liberated Europe. Kazakh warriors Rakhimzhan Koshkarbayev and Ilya Siyanov were among those who stormed the Reichstag.

We must not forget those who struggled on the home front. Their living conditions were very similar to those experienced on the front lines. Military factories were evacuated from the European part of the Soviet Union to Kazakhstan, where civilian workers toiled selflessly. During the war, every fourth citizen of my country was drafted to build defence and front-line facilities. They worked with shovels and spades to achieve victory. The film industry was also evacuated to Kazakhstan, where the vast majority of wartime films were produced.

Kazakhstan gave shelter to millions of refugees and evacuees of various nationalities and faiths, laying the solid foundations of the current culture of tolerance in our country. We abide unswervingly by the principle of international and inter-faith understanding.

I should like to state here that its memory of the destructiveness of the war led to Kazakhstan to take the political decision to reject the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal. The Semipalatinsk nuclear testing grounds have been closed and, with our neighbours of Central Asia, we initiated the creation of the Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone. This contribution illustrated my country's sense of responsibility towards the right of our elder veterans to work and live in peace.

The Second World War revealed the fragility of peaceful and constructive existence. Its lessons concerning the need to enhance collective efforts to preserve peace and to strengthen cooperation among all peaceful civilizations must be learned by all Members of the United Nations. Maintaining peace is the best way for States to demonstrate their desire to prevent arms proliferation, wars and conflicts.

This is a very important year for the non-proliferation process, and my country is among those that endorse the concept of a world free of nuclear and other forms of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Sergeyev (Ukraine): It is an honour for my delegation to take the floor at this special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The United Nations was founded in 1945 in the determination to save

succeeding generations from the scourge of war following the tragedy of the Second World War, which had inflicted unprecedented suffering upon humankind.

Today, Ukraine, along with all participants of the anti-Nazi coalition, is marking a great day in its history — a day of glory and the triumph of justice. We celebrate our joint victory in the Second World War. At the same time, it is also a day of sorrow, when the world grieves over the millions of lives lost in terrible battles of unprecedented cruelty. We pay tribute to everyone who fought for the liberation of their homelands, the European continent and the entire world from inhuman tyranny, as well as to all victims of war.

My country paid too high a price for the victory, having lost more than 10 million of its best sons and daughters. Seven million Ukrainians were killed at the front line and while fighting as members of underground units and resistance movements. Over 2 million Ukrainians were enslaved in Nazi concentration camps. Hundreds of thousands perished in prisons and in bondage. By war's end, the overall population of the country had declined by 25 per cent. Ukraine suffered severe devastation, with entire towns and villages being reduced to ashes. The horrible bloodshed in my homeland continued for 40 months.

Today, less than one third of those who took part in or witnessed the war remain among my compatriots. We will never forget their heroic exploits. Our solemn duty is to do our utmost to ensure that veterans who fought for freedom enjoy the care and support of today's generation.

We remember all those who stood in the way of the brown plague of Nazism during the brutal years of the Second World War. We are proud of the courage, determination and unity of those who opposed evil, violence and war atrocities. Having gathered here today to mark the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, we are resolved to prevent the recurrence of such catastrophes. Let us draw wisdom from the lessons of the past to guide us in the future.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in emphasizing the importance of this special solemn meeting of the General Assembly convened in celebration of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and in commemoration of all its victims.

The Second World War was a great tragedy that demonstrated the destructive consequences of tyranny and of disregard and contempt for human dignity, rights and freedoms. Victory was achieved through the heroic efforts and unprecedented solidarity of many nations, as well as at the cost of untold human suffering and the lives of millions of people. The horrors of the war, the sacrifices made and the victims themselves should never be forgotten.

I would like to point out with particular pride that, alongside other nations, Azerbaijan and its citizens made a significant contribution to overall victory in the Second World War. Although Azerbaijan was not a zone of military operations, it incurred tremendous losses during the course of the war. From 700,000 to 800,000 Azerbaijanis fought on the battle front as well as in partisan detachments and anti-fascist resistance movements throughout Europe, and around a half million of them died in consequence.

On the eve of the Second World War, the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku, ranked as one of the largest oil-producing centres in the world and was the main supplier of oil and related products within the Soviet Union. Azerbaijani oil covered about 70 per cent of the Soviet army's needs during wartime.

Azerbaijan produced 130 types of armaments and their components. Between 1941 and 1945, almost a half million Soviet Union armed forces personnel underwent treatment in hospitals throughout Azerbaijan.

For their heroism, courage and determination, many Azerbaijani officers and soldiers, as well as those who served on the home front, were decorated with the highest Government orders and medals.

In the immediate post-war period, the successful establishment of multinational judicial institutions for the purposes of prosecuting and punishing crimes of international dimension and scope demonstrated how effective international justice can be when there is a political will to support it. The response to the overwhelming horror of the crimes perpetrated during the wartime occupation of large parts of many nations served as a basis for the founding of the United Nations.

In the aftermath of the Second World War, the international community, acting chiefly through the United Nations, proclaimed and set down in

international instruments a compendium of fundamental values, such as peace and respect for human rights.

The lessons of the great victory over fascism are of current relevance in view of the importance of effectively addressing the major threats and challenges affecting the basic elements of the contemporary international legal order and undermining the national unity and stability of States.

Regrettably, due to the manifest failure of individual States to fulfil their most basic and compelling responsibilities, as well as to the collective inadequacies of international institutions in the years since the end of the war, efforts to bring about a peaceful, just and prosperous world have not always been consistent or successful. The world's conspicuous silence in certain instances, particularly with regard to wars of aggression, foreign occupations and ethnic cleansing, has served to generate mutual mistrust and to reinforce the sense that double standards and resort to military strength are prevalent in international relations.

Today more than ever before, we need to unite our efforts and speak in one voice against aggressive nationalism, international terrorism, extremism, racial discrimination, intolerance and insatiable annexationist aspirations, all of which represent a profound challenge to the principles and ideals of peace, democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Undoubtedly, as far as the most serious international crimes are concerned, more should be done to sharpen the tools for ending impunity. Above all, security and stability can best be ensured when we are able to achieve the resolution of present-day armed conflicts in a committed manner, based on full and unequivocal respect for the letter and spirit of international law.

Unfortunately, it appears that some members of the international community are still far from reaching this basic understanding. However, it is for their own good that they should realize that lack of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and contempt for human rights are hazardous, to say the least, in view of the irreversibility of a resolute response in favour of peace, justice and prosperity.

Azerbaijan recognizes the central role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security, promoting sustainable development and advocating human rights and fundamental freedoms, and believes that the multifaceted and interconnected challenges and threats confronting our world today can be better addressed through a reformed and credible United Nations. It is in the interest of us all to further strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations and to ensure greater transparency in the decision-making process, accountability in performance and shared responsibility within the Organization.

Mr. Jeenbaev (Kyrgyzstan) (*spoke in Russian*): One cannot speak of the victory in the Second World War without emotion. The scale of the events of that period was fateful in its meaning for all humankind. The great victory was achieved through unimaginable efforts made by all our people and the sacrifice of many human lives. We will always remember that victory was achieved by the efforts of the people of many countries.

Today, this most memorable of dates is widely marked by all peoples who suffered the poisons of war and the horrors and loss of a whole generation. In all human history, never have more victims fallen in defence of the freedom and independence their motherland. Immense loss and suffering were borne by the brave soldier-liberators and workers on the home front. The unity and steadfastness of the people guaranteed complete victory over the enemy. Over 360,000 sons and daughters of Kyrgyzstan fought in the Second World War, and they brought honour upon themselves. A great many of their names are etched in gold in the history of this most holy of patriotic wars. The motherland fully recognizes the bravery of Kyrgyz soldiers, for which they and their commanders were decorated with medals and given titles. Twenty-one of them became full Cavaliers of the Order of Glory and more than 70 Kyrgyz citizens were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

On this day, I would like especially to note the contribution and enormous efforts of the Kyrgyz home front in achieving this great victory. From the very first day of the war, Kyrgyzstan's industry was placed on war footing. The entire agricultural sector was working for the front. The men who went to the front were replaced by women, young people and older persons. It was they who kept the cogs of industry turning.

Passing years take us ever further away from 1945. However, our gratitude to these veterans is undiminished. The most important thing is that tears were shed and suffering was felt. At the cost of their

lives, our sisters and brothers made it possible for us to live free and independent. We cherish their memory. Their example compels us to make new achievements towards a more prosperous world. From this rostrum, I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to the General Assembly for having declared 8 and 9 May as days of remembrance and reconciliation. I would like once again to thank all Member States for their support for resolution 64/257, on the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Today, all of progressive humankind looks towards the United Nations, where key issues are being discussed that have an impact in the Organization's future activities. In the very near future, we will commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of this unique Organization, which is a common home for all the peoples of the planet. The world and the international situation have changed dramatically in the years of its existence. Peace followed the end of that destructive war, but new threats and challenges have emerged. Kyrgyzstan is fully aware that new steps are needed today to give fresh momentum to the activities of the United Nations so that it can respond appropriately to rapidly changing developments throughout the world. Time is both unrelenting and short. The veterans are passing away. Our duty is to support all war veterans and surround them with warmth and care so that we can inherit both their bravery and their responsibility.

Mr. Askarov (Uzbekistan) (*spoke in Russian*): Today, as we mark the sixty-fifth anniversary of the great victory won thanks to the bravery of our brotherly peoples, we pay tribute to all our countrymen who lost their lives on the battlefields and on the home front.

I associate myself with the statements made by my colleagues and now wish to speak of the participation of Uzbekistan and its people during the Second World War. I would first like to share a few statistics.

Uzbekistan's population in 1941 was just over 6 million. During the years of the destructive Second World War, 1.6 million men were drafted to the front. Nearly a fourth of them — over 458,000 — died liberating their country and fighting for independence and freedom from fascism: their own and that of other European peoples. A further look at those tragic figures reveals that Uzbekistan lost almost 8 per cent of its population as a result of that bloody war. One out of 14 of our country's citizens died. The victory achieved by our people was at the cost of the lives of many of our citizens.

Uzbekistan's people took part in every battle of the Second World War, including the battles of Moscow and Kursk, the liberation of Belarus, Ukraine and the countries of Eastern Europe, and, of course, the battle for Berlin. The ancient Uzbek cities of Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara, among others, served as centres for the care of a million Soviet soldiers. Uzbekistan also provided more than 1,000 aeroplanes to the common war effort.

I should like to draw attention to the fact that the war not only brought all peoples together; it also set an example of understanding from which the world can learn. Over the years of the war, 2 million refugees were transferred to Uzbekistan, where they found shelter.

One of the most striking illustrations of the sincere warmth, charity and generosity of the people of our Republic was their mass welcome into their homes of more than 200,000 orphans from Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic republics, Poland and other countries. People lined up at the orphanages to adopt the suffering children. This outpouring was unprecedented in any other country. It is well known that many Uzbek families took in and cared for five, seven, ten and sometimes more child victims of that terrible war. The entire world knows the story of the blacksmith Shamakhmudov and his wife, who adopted and raised 14 orphans, including Russians, Belarussians, Moldavians, Ukrainians, Letts, Jews, Kazakhs, Tatars and others of various nationalities. At that time, the famous Uzbek poet Gafur Gulyam wrote a poem, "You are not an orphan", that later became famous in a translation by the great Russian poet Anna Akhmatova:

> "Are you really an orphan? Calm down, darling,
> The big country, overflowing with maternal love,
> Like a kind sun shining down on you,
> Will keep your childhood safe."

On 9 May, we in Uzbekistan will commemorate the coming together of all peoples. Our President will participate, as will veterans and disabled persons who took part in the Second World War. There are 11,000 such people in my country, and nearly 200,000 of those who worked on the home front are still alive. By presidential decree, veterans and disabled persons from the Second World War will be decorated with a medal

commemorating the sixty-fifth anniversary of the victory.

Allow me also to draw attention to the fact that there are no old-age homes in Uzbekistan: pensioners are surrounded by their families and friends. We pay tribute to their achievements on both the front lines and the home front.

The creation of the United Nations following the end of the Second World War was a very important development. I hope that, with the cooperation of all Member States and with goodwill among the peoples of the world, the efforts of the United Nations will prevent such terrible events from ever happening again.

Mr. Nazarian (Armenia): First, allow me to thank everyone for attending this commemorative meeting of the General Assembly. I would also like to welcome the esteemed veterans of the Second World War who are present here, as well as to join previous speakers in congratulating everyone on the sixty-fifth anniversary of Victory Day. The annual commemoration in our countries of that historic occasion is a national event, but the biggest heroes of Victory Day have always been, and remain, our veterans, to whom we are forever indebted. They were the main protagonists in the heroic annals of our common history.

Sixty-five years later, we are here today to recall their triumph, to remember their sacrifice and to recommit ourselves to the principles for which they fought. Tens of millions of soldiers and civilians died in the Second World War. On this day of remembrance, as we mourn the lives lost, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the nations that fought for liberty and peace.

It is my honour to speak today and to note that although it was small in numbers, Armenia was one of those nations. It played a large role in achieving the triumph over fascism. From June 1941 to May 1945, approximately 600,000 Armenians were drafted into the army at a time when the population of our country was less than 1.5 million. Every third person did not return home.

Six national military divisions were formed in Armenia, of which three played an active role in the battles in the Caucasus during the war. One of the courageous brigades during the Second World War, composed primarily of ethnic Armenians and formed in Echmiadzin, Armenia, in 1943, was the 119th Tank Regiment, which was funded entirely by the Armenian diaspora in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and the United States.

It is noteworthy that many Armenians who were citizens of the anti-Hitler coalition countries also fought in the war. Just the other day, I learned about the story of Ralph Mesrobian, an American citizen of Armenian heritage, who was a member of the renowned Black Sheep fighter squadron, which was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in action. There are many other examples, and I take this opportunity to thank the representatives of the Armenian diaspora present in this Hall and others for their contributions towards our common victory.

The honourable pages of the history of the Soviet army during the Second World War contain the names of three Armenian marshals, one admiral, over 60 generals, 106 Heroes of the Soviet Union and 27 Cavaliers of the Order of Glory, as well as many other high-ranking officers.

Today, we relate to our children and grandchildren the valour and sacrifice of the talented military commanders and soldiers. We also recall the victory over hatred and racism won with the blood of our fathers and grandfathers, who made it possible for all the nations of the world to build a peaceful and better life. In that connection, the Government of Armenia is devoting special attention to projects involving educating young people about the history and lessons of war, crimes against humanity and genocide. Speaking of the new generation, I am pleased to note that we have a number of young men and women present here — and who requested to be here — in the memory of their courageous grandparents, who fought in the war but who, unfortunately, are no longer with us.

Our commemoration of this day would not be complete and my role as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women would not be fulfilled if I did not mention and pay a special tribute to all the women who served in the army — and also to all those women who stayed behind and worked tirelessly in factories, farms, hospitals and schools, and who mobilized resources to defend our common principles of family values, freedom and patriotism and, by doing so, served as beacons of hope for the possibility of a better future.

Today we also remember with heavy hearts those who paid the supreme sacrifice, and we bow our heads in their memory. It is true that in war there are no victors, only survivors. We are extremely fortunate, however, to still have among us heroes of those tragic yet heroic days, and to have the opportunity to speak with them and, more important, to learn from them.

The time is long overdue to honour our heroes not only with speeches but with concrete actions. Remembrance, attention and care: these, in our view, are the essential parts of our social strategy with respect to our esteemed veterans, and the Armenian Government and National Assembly have recently enacted new legislation to further expand their benefits, including those related to financial, medical and transportation needs

In conclusion, allow me to wholeheartedly congratulate all on this day of victory and peace. The end of the war and establishment of peace were decisive for the international community in creating new and better opportunities to flourish and develop. The victory symbolizes the determination and will of nations to protect their dignity, safety and freedom. We know the price of victory and peace, and we all see their fruits on daily basis. Therefore, today we recommit ourselves, and call on others to commit themselves, to studying the lessons of the past and to realizing the principles of peaceful settlement of conflicts around the world. Indeed, that commitment is the best way to pay tribute to those who fought in the war.

To the veterans being honoured here today: grateful Armenia salutes every one of you. Thank you.

Mr. Cujba (Moldova): This year the international community is commemorating the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, one of the greatest century tragedies of the twentieth century, which put Europe and the whole of human civilization on the edge of disaster. Today's solemn meeting of the General Assembly is in memory of all the victims of those horrendous events.

We pay tribute to the millions and millions of men and women, soldiers and civilians of many nations of the anti-Hitler coalition, who died on battlefields and in death camps, who did not spare their lives in defeating fascism and bringing peace to the world. We are eternally indebted to all those who perished in the just fight for freedom and human dignity, for life and the independence of our peoples, for a better future and for a world free from affliction.

And we are particularly proud that, among others, the people of my country made their contribution to the victory.

The end of the Second World War was marked by a common victory against a common enemy. It became a common value for humankind, a value which should be held in the memory of nations to strengthen them in the face of new challenges and threats. Sadly, it was through the suffering and death of millions of people that the international community came to realize that there was a need for a system of collective security to ensure international peace. We cannot allow the horrible tragedy of the war to be forgotten.

After that enormous disaster and tragedy, the leaders of the world, guided by the vision of a united and prosperous future for the next generations, laid the foundation of cooperation and stability. The anniversary of the end of the Second World War holds special significance for the United Nations. Keeping in mind the lessons of history, the United Nations must reaffirm the purposes and principles enshrined in its Chapter, and must spare no effort in preventing and resolving conflicts by peaceful means, strengthening its capacities in peacebuilding and the consolidation of peace, and promoting democratic values.

Along with its Member States, it has to increase awareness of the universal values shared by humankind, promote a culture of peace, tolerance and cooperation and create, at the global, regional and national levels, an environment conductive to peace and common understanding. That is our sacred duty to the victims of war, to the victims of hatred, intolerance and poverty, and to those who foresaw, beyond the war, a world of peace and cooperation.

Today it is in the interest of humanity to further strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations as the central element in the system of collective security and peace. That will enable the family of nations to face the future with confidence and to achieve the noble goal of the Charter: to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

Member States will unite their efforts in dealing with new challenges and threats, with the United Nations playing a central role, and will make every effort to settle all disputes by peaceful means in

conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and in such a manner that international peace and security are not endangered.

Mr. Sobków (Poland): Let me start by thanking the Russian delegation for all its efforts to bring the commemoration of the end of the Second World War to the attention of the General Assembly. The Second World War was the most horrific war in human history. That is why it is more than appropriate and necessary to commemorate the millions of victims of those terrifying atrocities and destruction.

Poland was the first country to be attacked militarily by the Nazi forces, and it lost more than 6 million citizens in the Second World War, among them over 3 million Poles of Jewish origin. Those numbers conceal the unbelievable suffering of millions of human beings. We bow our heads before those who contributed to the demise of the Nazi Third Reich so that we might live in peace, security, democracy and the rule of law.

We pay tribute to all the soldiers from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and other nations who fought in the Red Army; we admire their heroism, enormous suffering and dedication. We grieve for those nameless victims who fought with sacrifice and no fear. But let me remind this audience that the victory of the Second World War was also the work of brave Poles.

Poland had a prominent place in the anti-Nazi coalition. Our contribution was the biggest, next to those of the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Kingdom. Poland was the first country to actively oppose Nazi aggression; our soldiers bravely struggled on all fronts of the war. Our pilots fought bravely in the Battle of Britain; our soldiers contributed to the war effort in the defence of Tobruk, the capture of Monte Cassino, the battle of the Falaise pocket and Operation Market Garden, to name just a few. Probably up to 2 million Poles served during the war in all Polish military formations: regular armies, partisan troops and underground forces. We also helped decipher the Enigma machine codes, and our intelligence experts proved to be of much value to Allied intelligence.

On this day of remembrance we should recall the Second World War, the lives lost, the countries destroyed, the horror and senselessness of it all. We should also recall that the United Nations was born out of the experiences of the war. Our peoples at that time were moved by the firm resolve to never let this happen again. We should continuously uphold that notion so that we might not ever do this again, and never allow it.

Mr. Wolff (United States of America): I am honoured to represent the United States at this special solemn meeting of the General Assembly. Today, we pause from our current labours to salute those who gave their lives during the Second World War to the cause of peace and human freedom, to mourn the innocents killed and murdered during those tragic years, to honour the sacrifice of friends and allies who fought shoulder to shoulder with the brave soldiers of my country, and to remember the origins of this institution amid the ash and smoke of the most terrible war in human history.

The very term "United Nations" comes, of course, from the 1942 Declaration issued by my country and other nations engaged in a common struggle against Naziism and totalitarianism. They pledged to defend life, liberty, independence and religious freedom, and to preserve human rights and justice in their own lands as well as in other lands. Those noble ideals — under such siege in 1942 — form the foundation of the international system that rose from the great devastation of the 1940s. We join together today to remember, but also to reaffirm, our commitment to the shared goal of a world free from war, oppression, fear and want.

There would be no United Nations without the Second World War. Out of that great struggle came lasting resolve: a determination to defend the inalienable rights of all people, to unite against aggression and to insist that civilians be spared during even the most furious conflict. For all the unimaginable sacrifice of the Allied forces, for all the unspeakable suffering endured by nations under occupation, for all the unthinkable devastation across Europe and Asia, we still come together today to remember the Second World War as a war fought out of the purest necessity. In Nazi Germany, we faced far more than just a rival Power; we faced a rival view of humanity: one rooted in hatred and spite, one bent on conquest and subjugation, one that sought to murder outright an entire branch of the human family, one that denied and despised the essential rights to which my nation has always aspired.

Defeating the Third Reich and the Axis Powers did not guarantee freedom and justice; but so long as Hitler ruled and ravaged, so long as vast swathes of Europe and Asia suffered under cruelty and occupation, no person could be truly free.

Sixty-five years later, we join our fellow Member States in hailing the victory of the great wartime alliance, and we are thankful that former foes have become true and enduring friends. But we look not just back, but forward, so that we may use the lessons of the past to build a future in which all nations can exercise their rights and in which all nations will shoulder their responsibilities.

We remind ourselves that, just as fascism could not be defeated by any one nation, we face a new generation of global challenges that also demand global cooperation and global solutions. We live in an era of great change, but the need to work together — to stand together against war, aggression, disease, famine, proliferation, terrorism, Holocaust denial, intolerance, bigotry, poverty and despair and to strive together to create a world that sees all people as all truly equal: that basic need for unity in the face of great challenge has not changed.

People across the world still face threats to security and stability. The enemies are different; the ideologies have different names; but we have not yet passed into a time free of dangers, and they will require courage and resolve to overcome. So we must work together to make this institution, in the words of Winston Churchill, into "a true temple of peace in which the shields of many nations can some day be hung up". We must work together to stem the tide of nuclear peril. We must spread the reach of hope, prosperity and opportunity. We must celebrate the different ways in which we have all been created. We must resist the preachers of division, hatred and extremism. And we must defend the rights that all people have but that not all people can exercise.

Since the last time the Assembly gathered in solemn commemoration of the Second World War, untold thousands of its veterans have left us, claimed in the fullness of time, not in the clang and terror of battle. That great generation fought on the seas and oceans; they stormed the beaches and liberated the camps; they kept the torch of freedom alight under the rule of the collaborators and the quislings; they shed their blood on the streets of Stalingrad, the waters near Midway and the alleys of the Warsaw Ghetto. Because of them, we remember the Second World War for more than the horrors of the Holocaust and the malice of fascism. Because of them, we remember that human beings are capable not just of unimaginable cruelty but also of unimaginable bravery. They prevailed not just through force of arms but, as President Obama put it, "with sturdy alliances and enduring convictions".

So, we must all listen to the stories of the veterans who are still with us. We must always remember what they endured so that their families could live without war and so that people they never met could live without fear. And above all, we must deepen our commitment to the cause for which they fought: peace, liberty, justice and the common humanity that links us all together and makes each of us equally precious.

On behalf of my Government, let me offer abiding thanks to all those who struggled and sacrificed alongside us during the Second World War, and the abiding friendship of the United States to all those who cherish the values of human rights, human freedom and human dignity.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation welcomes the convening of this solemn special solemn meeting of the General Assembly in commemoration of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the world's great victory against fascism. Countless brave people gave their precious lives for the victory of that unprecedentedly tragic war. We deeply mourn for and pay high tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in the war and extend our deepest condolences to all innocent victims of the invading armies.

The world's struggle against fascism, a war of untold magnitude, involved more than 80 countries and regions and about 2 billion people in Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania. The fascist invaders wreaked tremendous havoc on the world and inflicted untold devastation on human civilization. China was one of the main battlefields of the world war against fascism. The war caused over 35 million military and civilian casualties in China, ravaged Chinese civilization, and imposed heavy losses to the Chinese nation. In the face of the war, more than 50 countries, China included, worked together to form a united world anti-fascist front. They supported each other, fought heroically against fascist invaders and won the war for justice.

China will never forget the sympathy and support extended to it by all peace-loving countries and people during the war. China will never forget the Soviet Union Red Army, members of the United States Flying Tigers, and medical personnel from Canada, India and other countries who fought shoulder to shoulder with the Chinese people and made heroic sacrifices on Chinese battlefields.

The victory of the world war against fascism marked a great triumph of justice over evil, light over darkness, and progressive over reactionary forces. It saved human civilization. History is a textbook. We must never forget the huge suffering inflicted by that barbaric and bloody war upon humankind. We should cherish peace and reconciliation more dearly and take concrete action to maintain international peace and security. Sixty-five years have passed since the end of the Second World War, but the ghost of Nazism and militarism lingers. The international community must remain vigilant. Past experience, if not forgotten, is a guide for the future. Only by drawing lessons from the past can we avoid the recurrence of historical tragedies and save future generations from the scourge of war.

The victory of the world war against fascism prompted the founding of the United Nations and the formulation of its Charter and other basic norms governing international relations. Over the past 65 years, the United Nations has contributed significantly to international peace, common development and the protection of human rights. The past 65 years have also witnessed sea changes throughout the world. In the face of various global threats and challenges, the United Nations has a more important role to play. We should continue to firmly uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter, maintain the authority and role of the United Nations and its Security Council, and strive for a brighter future for all humankind.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): We commend the delegation of the Russian Federation for proposing to the General Assembly the holding of this special solemn meeting.

The Second World War was the most devastating conflict ever witnessed in history. Today, we gather in this Hall to honour the memory of all those who perished in that heroic struggle for peace, justice and human dignity. We also gather to remind ourselves of our shared responsibility to prevent the world from ever enduring such a tragedy again.

In 1942, Brazil joined the Allies and actively supported them by providing critical air and naval bases, in addition to supplies and strategic materials. More importantly, in 1944 Brazil deployed an expeditionary force of over 25,000 troops to the European battlefront. Many Brazilians died in this endeavour. While war was still raging, we took interest in diplomatic efforts designed to establish a new international organization to replace the old League of Nations. We participated actively in the San Francisco Conference and became a founding Member of the United Nations.

Mrs. Aitimova (Kazakhstan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

This Organization was created "to save successive generations from the scourge of war". Maintaining international peace and security remains one of its core functions in the international multilateral system built after the war. However, the United Nations was meant to be and is much more than that. It has become the most powerful instrument at the disposal of the international community for the promotion of a broad set of values, principles, norms and institutions in the service of peace, development and human rights. For millions of people, it was and still is the difference between life and death.

It is true that not all of the expectations of 1945 have been met. Continued efforts to improve the United Nations are certainly needed, including as a tribute to the ultimate sacrifice made by millions in the Second World War. This should not, however, efface the unique and irreplaceable role the United Nations plays and will continue to play in so many domains.

It is to those who perished in the Second World War, to those whom the United Nations has helped to save since then and to all those whom we have sadly failed to save that we should be held accountable. For them, we must all renew our commitment to the purposes and principles of this Organization.

Ms. Shalev (Israel): We are gathered here to commemorate those who sacrificed so that humankind might prevail over madness and hope might prevail over hate. The State of Israel pays eternal homage to the men and women who saved the world at humankind's darkest hour.

We remember the victims for whom redemption never came. One victim was Etty Hillesum, a Dutch

Jewish woman and a brilliant writer and thinker. She was murdered in Auschwitz on 30 November 1943 as part of the Nazi's diabolical plan to exterminate the Jewish people. Shortly before her death, Etty wrote:

> "Somebody else will carry on from where my life has been cut short. And that is why I must try to live a good and faithful life to my last breath. In this way, those who come after me do not have to start all over again."

Etty's words are a powerful reminder of the path that we must take so that the sacrifice of those who fought and those who died will never be in vain. These words remind us that we must honour their legacy by protecting the world that they fought to create. These words remind us to stand up to tyrants, despots and all those who seek to choke the human spirit. These words remind us today to act immediately and with all our might, lest it be too late, as it was for tens of millions of people in that dreadful war.

Etty left us with one more prophecy. In her diary, she wrote:

> "After this war, two torrents will be unleashed on the world: a torrent of loving-kindness and a torrent of hatred... I should take the field against hatred."

Etty's legacy is our inheritance. May the sacrifice of so many heroes and the memory of so many victims grant us the wisdom and determination to safeguard the world from all who threaten the universal values of peace, tolerance and coexistence.

Mr. De Rivière (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, France associates itself with the statement delivered today on behalf of the European Union.

Sixty-five years ago, peace finally brought an end to one of the bloodiest conflicts in the history of humankind. We meet today to honour the memory of all the victims of that destructive war and to pay tribute to all those, illustrious or unknown, who fought for freedom in the world and won. This gathering is an opportunity to recall our common resolve to fight against all ideologies based on hate, xenophobia, intolerance, racism and anti-Semitism, and, more generally, against all contemporary forms of exclusion.

Sixty-five years ago, a new hope was born for Europe and for the world. The creation of the United Nations embodied the common hope for a better world and laid the foundations for genuine collective security. By reaffirming the sovereign equality of all Members, the Charter of the United Nations responded to a deep-rooted aspiration of peoples and Governments. The achievement of decolonization placed all peoples on an equal footing. And today, human rights, democracy and the rule of law are all recognized as fundamental imperatives.

In this context, Europe has been and continues to be a remarkable example of cooperation among peoples who once were adversaries. Europeans resolved never again to war with one another. Europe, enlarged and enjoying a relationship of trust with Russia, seeks to use its influence and strengths to promote peace and balance.

But the world continues to change, and we must not rely on the illusion that global stability is now assured. In addition to the resurgence of inter-State conflicts, new threats have emerged. Terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, increasing natural disasters, the severe poverty that still affects too many countries, major pandemics, environmental challenges and organized crime are all very real threats that remain difficult to address, especially through the framework of the United Nations, which was not intended for such purposes. These threats have become major concerns because they come on top of unresolved conflicts, regional tensions and ongoing internal strife.

If we wish to remain truly faithful to the memory of the victims and heroes of the Second World War, we must devote all our energies to realizing the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations. Realistic responses to major threats, both old and new, can be mounted only through a multilateral framework. Sixty-five years after the war, it is our enduring duty to honour the promises that gave life to hope in the aftermath of such horrifying conflict.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): Today, we join other nations in marking the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. We remember those millions of men and women who fought with courage and distinction to prevent the spread of fascism and dictatorship and to defend freedom. Successive generations of British people remember with pride the role that their forefathers played in that historic victory and continue to pay

tribute to the sacrifices made by their allies in that common cause.

For the United Kingdom, an act of remembrance is an act of honour — to those who lost their lives, to those who bore the sufferings of war and to those who had the wisdom to build peace. As we mark today the end of the Second World War, so we remember those whose lives are still threatened by conflict and those who still seek or mourn loved ones taken from them by fighting. And we reaffirm our commitment to working to redress such injustices and to ensure lasting peace.

Now more than ever, the world is threatened by problems on a global scale, from poverty and inequality to nuclear proliferation, from climate change to terrorism, from pandemic disease to ethnic cleansing and genocide. We recognize that we cannot maintain security without helping to encourage development, just as we cannot expect development where people are threatened by insecurity, and we cannot expect societies to remain secure and prosperous without respect for human rights and the rule of law.

As we remember the millions of men, women and children who died in the Second World War and the courage of those who came together to fight hatred and extremism, so too we should reaffirm our commitment to this great Organization, which was born directly out of the devastation left in the wake of the war. The founders of the United Nations made a commitment to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war by ensuring peace and security, delivering social progress and better standards of living, supporting fundamental human rights, and promoting justice and respect for the rule of law across the world.

Each year at this commemoration, we should restate our commitment to these principles, and renew and redouble our efforts to promote them. That is the debt that we owe to those brave men and women who died in the Second World War.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): Sixty-five years ago, the guns fell silent on battlefields all over Europe, marking the end of the Second World War, the bloodiest and deadliest conflict that humankind has ever known.

Today, we humbly bow our heads to pay tribute to the countless victims of the Second World War — men, women and children, civilians and soldiers alike, citizens of many of the nations assembled here today — who lost their lives, their loved ones or their livelihoods in that terrible war. Among them were also the victims of the Holocaust, whose fate we commemorated in this Hall only a few weeks ago.

The outbreak of the Second World War remains linked with the name of my country. It was Germany that brought unspeakable suffering upon its neighbours and, as a consequence, also upon its own citizens. I stand before the Assembly today to reaffirm that my country has accepted its responsibility for the crimes committed by Nazi Germany. This responsibility we will never abdicate.

Today, we also remember the soldiers of the allied forces — Americans, Soviets, British and French — who sacrificed their lives to liberate Europe from the inhumanity and tyranny of the Nazi regime. Indeed, the early days of May 1945 were a time of liberation for Germany and for large parts of Europe.

Following the end of the Second World War, the western part of my country was presented with a unique opportunity for a fresh start, culturally and politically, built on the cornerstones of democracy, human dignity and human rights. In 1989, the citizens of East Germany and of our Eastern European neighbours successfully initiated a peaceful revolution in order to partake in these values as well.

The Permanent Representative of Spain, speaking on behalf of the European Union, has recalled how the project of European integration successfully implemented a utopian vision of peace on a continent that had been ravaged by centuries of bloody confrontation. Germany remains committed to further deepening European integration. Also, reconciliation with Russia and the other States that gained their independence following the dissolution of the Soviet Union is of special significance for us, considering the enormous price their peoples paid during the war. That is why German Chancellor Angela Merkel will be honoured to attend the commemorative ceremonies to be held in Moscow in a few days.

In view of the suffering of the Baltic States, we have always felt an obligation to strongly support their integration into the Euro-Atlantic community. Poland was a victim of particularly brutal Nazi aggression; we are all the more grateful that our relationship with Poland has developed into a true European friendship. That holds true also for our Central European partners.

Our moral responsibility for the Holocaust, that despicable crime against humanity, entails a particular obligation for Germany towards the State of Israel.

While much of the world still lay in ruins, delegates gathered in San Francisco. Their aim was to repair the fabric of international relations and to provide the world with tools to peacefully manage the world's affairs in order to prevent global catastrophes like the Second World War from ever happening again. The product of their efforts, the United Nations, is the practical expression of their shared hopes for a better world. Germany is grateful for having been given the opportunity to take part in this unique, challenging and indispensable project. We remain committed to supporting the world Organization in all its fields of activity. The international community can count on us.

Since its establishment in 1945, the United Nations has come a long way. And yet, the founding principles of the world Organization remain relevant to this day. In many parts of the world, we have not yet succeeded in achieving the vision, so vividly described in the preamble of the United Nations Charter, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which human rights and justice can prosper, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

We can yet achieve those aspirations; we can build a safer, more just and more prosperous world; we can overcome the challenges if we learn the lessons of the past. The legacy of the horrors of the Second World War and the legacy of the countless victims commit us and command us to strive to attain those common goals together.

Mr. Starčević (Serbia): This year, the international community observes the sixty-fifth anniversary of the historic victory in the Second World War. The date of 9 May marks the victory of the anti-fascist alliance over a horrible regime that wrought terror and destruction all over Europe and other regions of the world.

The appearance of fascism and Nazi ideology had tragic consequences that transcended all known upheavals in the history of modem civilization. The roots of this tragedy were not only in the racist and genocidal nature of the ideology of fascism, but also in the inadmissible retreats and unreasonable compromises made in the period of its emergence and rise. The lessons of Munich have much meaning today, in spite of the distance of six and a half decades.

Facing that extreme threat, the freedom-loving world found the strength to jointly confront and destroy, with great sacrifice, the evil that threatened the progress and basic civilizational values of humanity. The Second World War took the lives of almost 60 million people, a significant number of them through mass-murder operations, especially in Eastern Europe. The fascist regime eliminated millions of people from such specific ethnic groups as Jews, Roma, Slavs and others in the name of the supremacy of the "pure race". Today, 65 years later, we remember those horrors and mourn all innocent victims.

The victory over fascism and Nazism was built into the foundations of modern Europe and the world and into the democratic economic and cultural development of contemporary civilization. This is thus a day of liberation and victory for all fighters against fascism in all countries, and a day of reminder of the need to protect the results of the historic resistance to the evil once unleashed on humankind.

The Republic of Serbia is a country that fought and suffered in both world wars, making significant contributions to the Allied victories and suffering enormous casualties. Serbia, as part of the common State of Yugoslavia, took part in the anti-fascist struggle from the beginning and suffered immense loss of life, compounded by the genocide conducted against the Serbian people and the insane executions of thousands of civilians, including schoolchildren and students, that the fascist occupiers undertook in many places in Serbia.

Our forefathers fought for freedom and human rights and for the universal values of modern civilization. Today, Serbia is a democratic country strongly opposed to any form of violence and extremism, and an open society dedicated to building peace and mutual understanding among nations.

Let us be reminded that the victory over fascism also marked the beginning of a new era in international relations. It significantly changed the political landscape of the world, creating a new foundation for international relations. This very Organization is a product of that victory, established to foster a new era of international cooperation and to prevent conflicts.

Today, the international system that was established in 1945 has been transformed. However, various factors have produced a new set of global circumstances that are, unfortunately, sometimes contrary to some of the noble principles on which the United Nations system is founded. That is why we have to intensify our efforts to increase respect for international law and the fundamental principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter. This approach is the only way to strengthen peace, stability and prosperity for all. Building a more equitable global community by promoting justice, peace, liberty and respect for universal human rights and fundamental freedoms should be the legacy that we must jointly strive to achieve.

Mr. Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam): My delegation would like to thank the Russian Federation for its initiative and the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting to mark the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, for this event provides humankind with a special opportunity to celebrate its great victory over the evil forces of fascism and aggression, peace over war, and justice over injustice.

As a nation which, through the sacrifice of the lives of millions of its people — 2 million in 1945 alone — who bravely took part in their homeland and overseas, shoulder to shoulder with their comrades in the armies of the anti-fascist coalition, in the struggle of the world's peoples for liberation, and which benefited from the victory of this struggle to rise up to win independence and freedom after nearly a century under foreign domination, we join other peoples in paying deepest tribute to the many millions of people in the world who gave their lives in the fight to bring that disastrous war to an end and to all those who fell victim to that man-made scourge. We would like to pay special tribute to the peoples and brave soldiers of the former Soviet Union who bore the main brunt of the battles and with their final one contributed to the elimination of fascism.

While celebrating that great victory of humankind 65 years ago, it is necessary for us to recall that, since that victory and since the United Nations was founded in 1945 with the mandate

> "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war... to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small... and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom",

many peoples of the world have suffered and are continuing to suffer from war and want and injustice. Many have never even had a day of peace. Humankind continues to face the danger of extinction with the existence of weapons of mass destruction.

It is our task today to work harder to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our Organization so that it can truly serve as a protector of international peace and security and a promoter of friendly and cooperative relations among nations for development and progress. As we celebrate victory and commemorate the victims, it is our task to ensure that the sacrifices that our forerunner generations made for that victory were not made in vain and that there will be no more victims to commemorate.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): I am honoured to have the opportunity to be here on this special day and to participate together with all of those gathered to commemorate the victims of the Second World War and to celebrate the sixty-fifth anniversary of its end. That historic day undoubtedly determined the future of humankind and contemporary history. Without the victory against Nazism and fascism, we would not be here at the United Nations, the key place for international cooperation and multilateralism where all Members of this unique world Organization seek to strengthen world peace and security.

Sixty-five years ago, the victory over evil permitted the creation of the United Nations based on the principles of the equality of peoples and human beings. That victory should not be considered a victory of some particular group of States over another, but as a victory of all nations and peoples against ideologies that supported and encouraged intolerance among human beings and communities on the basis of their nationality, ethnicity, religion or skin colour. Fortunately, the world recognized the evils known as Nazism and fascism and raised a merciless and heavy combat against them.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is proud to be one of the founding Members of the United Nations together with the other successor States of the former Yugoslavia. The peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina were resolute in fighting together against Nazism and fascism during

the Second World War, independently of their nationality and religion. They made sacrifices and suffered for the values that form the basis of the modern world.

I would like to recall that, during the Second World War, some of the largest military battles in the Balkan region took place on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many of our compatriots gave their lives for the ideals of humankind during the war. Those who survived had witnessed the horrors and the cruelty of this tragedy.

Unfortunately, still today, 65 years after this victory, there are forces that fight the universal values of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms that the United Nations defends. We have to remain conscious that, after the Second World War, many countries continued to suffer from wars and conflicts. Genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity occurred on a large scale across the world. In the past decades, peace efforts across the world have failed too many times. Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country that suffered greatly in the cause of victory against fascism in the 1940s had to suffer once again in the 1990s.

What can we really do to stop these tragedies? We know that it is not enough to say that such an evil must never be allowed to happen again. We cannot change the past, but I am sure that we can influence our future and think also about the potential victims of present and future violence.

We simply must act to prevent such horrifying events from recurring. As noted in resolution 64/257, we believe that we must all overcome the legacy of the war and work towards reconciliation, international and regional cooperation, and the promotion of democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms. These indisputably constitute the only way by which we can reach our common goals.

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to all the victims of the Second World War, without forgetting all the victims of more recent wars. I sincerely hope that no victims of any war will ever be forgotten, wherever they may come from.

Mr. Núñez Mosquera (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): We commend the Russian Federation for its initiative to convene this special solemn meeting of the General Assembly to mark the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and in commemoration of all victims of the war. The Second World War was the greatest tragedy of the twentieth century. Tens of millions of lives were lost; tens of millions of people were wounded or maimed; families were torn apart; many countries experienced colossal destruction.

That is why the commemoration of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the war is of great historical importance to all peace-loving peoples and Governments throughout the world. Many peoples paid an extremely high price to defeat fascism. For the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the war cost the lives of 25 million of its sons and daughters: not only soldiers, but children, women and elderly people. The acts of liberation carried out by the peoples of the former USSR, and by many other peoples, will remain forever in the pages of history. To mention just a few of those feats, the heroic resistance to the Stalingrad blockade and the siege of Moscow, the victory in the battle of Kursk and the liberation of the concentration camps, such as Auschwitz and Terezin, should ever be in the memory of future generations.

The consequences of the brutal Nazi invasion and the horrors of the Second World War oblige us to remain alert so that never again will the horrors of fascism be repeated. In addition to paying well-deserved tribute today to all the victims of the war, we appeal for international peace. The imposition of armed force and war will never be the solution.

The United Nations was established at the end of the war precisely to promote world peace and prosperity. Today more than ever before, the United Nations must be protected and strengthened. It is a universal duty to respect the Charter: to do so is the best tribute we can pay to the fallen.

Mr. Čekuolis (Lithuania): Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Spain on behalf of the presidency of the European Union. In addition, my country would like to emphasize the following.

Like all wars and military conflicts, the Second World War was an enormous tragedy that left deep and long-lasting scars on the face of Europe. As we mark the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the battles of the Second World War, we look back at the devastation and the horror caused by that war, with millions of lives destroyed and millions more people bereft or crippled.

We bow our heads with deep respect and sorry in remembrance of all the victims of the Second World War and once again affirm our profound gratitude to those who fought against aggression, occupation, dictatorship and oppression. On this solemn occasion, once again we raise our voices against the atrocities of war, the Holocaust, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including crimes committed by totalitarian regimes.

To our nation, the end of the war did not bring freedom. Instead, it resulted in the occupation and renewed annexation of Lithuania by the Soviet Union. The war ended in a crushing defeat for the totalitarian Nazi regime, but while a part of Europe and the world were celebrating liberation from that regime's deadly grip, my country was subjected to the rule of another totalitarian regime: that of Soviet communism. Our struggle for freedom, independence and justice was to continue for almost five decades, with more human losses, families exiled and torn apart, violence, censorship and oppression pervading all spheres of life.

Only in 1990 did we regain our independence and freedom and restore democracy.

It is therefore only natural that, to us, commemoration of the end of the Second World War in Europe is linked to a reflection on its tragic legacy and on the importance of an honest and thorough debate on history, as a part of the reconciliation process. Such reconciliation, based on an open and fair evaluation of the facts, is, in our view, the right way forward and a guarantee that necessary lessons have been drawn from this bloody page in human history.

In that context, we call for genuine efforts to open up all relevant historical and political archives and for a proper evaluation, on the international level, of the crimes committed by both Nazi and Stalinist totalitarian regimes. We believe that the memory of the crimes committed by all totalitarian regimes must be a collective memory shared and promoted by all. It is our common duty to keep alive the memory of the tragic cost of restoring freedom, democracy and the rule of law, as a constant reminder that common values such as freedom and democracy cannot be taken for granted. They must be upheld, defended and cherished every single day.

The memory of the victims of the Second World War should inspire us to redouble our efforts in order to ensure freedom, peace, security and democracy for us all, and to avoid any repetition of the great cataclysm of the twentieth century. As Members of the United Nations, we appreciate and support the efforts of the Organization aimed at a true assessment of similar tragedies and at preventing them from occurring ever again.

Mr. Vilović (Croatia): Let me first of all express my gratitude for the convening of this special solemn gathering. I need not repeat what has already been said so many times about why it is important to remember, commemorate and mourn the victims, so that such things never happen again.

My country, Croatia, was one of those most affected by the events of the Second World War. Large-scale military operations took place on its territory. The occupying forces and the puppet regime committed horrible atrocities. The country was divided, and parts of it were annexed by neighbouring Nazi-fascist regimes. However, very soon after the occupation, the population recognized the true nature of the regime and organized the resistance movement, which, under the leadership of Marshal Tito, began as early as June 1941, two and a half months after the occupation. The partisan movement rapidly gained in strength and by the end of 1941 had organized into brigades and established liberated territories. By the end of the war, the Yugoslav partisan army, with the participation of all peoples and all ethnicities of the former Yugoslavia — a great many of them Croats — had some 500,000 soldiers: more than any other country in occupied Europe. It thus made a large contribution to the achievement of the common goal of the Allied forces and all freedom-loving people. The price they paid was high. Tens of thousands were killed, most of them civilians, and the country was destroyed, but lessons were learned worldwide and nationwide and should not be forgotten.

Croatia is proud to have been not only a member, but a prominent member, of that anti-fascist coalition. Today, 65 years after the war, what do we have? We have the United Nations and a unified Europe, based on anti-fascism, of which Croatia, my country, will very soon become a part. The primary task of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security, but that is not achievable without taking into consideration all three basic pillars — security, development and human rights — and hence fighting any form of racism or xenophobia or any hatred based on somebody being different.

Mr. Talbot (Guyana): The delegation of Guyana is grateful for the opportunity afforded by this special solemn commemoration of all the victims of the Second World War to honour the memory of those who perished or otherwise suffered as a consequence of that tragic chapter in human history.

By convening this meeting, the General Assembly has afforded us a moment of special reflection. We reflect on the horrors and cruelty inflicted upon a generation who were forced to endure tyranny, occupation and the violent abuse of their human rights and fundamental freedoms; on the millions who died and the millions more who suffered the pain and anguish of loss — loss of limb, of family, of friend, of comrade and so much more. Among the countless families touched by this tragedy were of my native land, Guyana, then still a colony far removed from the main theatre of conflict.

We reflect also on the heroism of those who struggled against the scourge of war, tyranny and injustice. Many paid the ultimate price for a higher, nobler cause: the cause of human dignity, of freedom, of peace. Their comrades in the same cause ensured that they did not die in vain. An alliance forged across many boundaries formed a common front against a common enemy. Their sacrifice gave us the chance of a better future; their triumph was the harbinger of a brighter day for humankind.

The end of the Second World War ushered in an era of renewed hope, a hope embodied in the United Nations, which was born with a determination, enshrined in its Charter, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

Sixty-five years later, that pledge remains unfulfilled. Our world has witnessed too many wars and untold suffering since. The agenda for peace remains unfinished, as does the agenda for development. Human rights abuses are all too frequent across the globe. Indeed, the cause of a better world beckons still.

Therefore, as we commemorate the victims of the Second World War, it is Guyana's hope that, as nations small and great, we will always renew our resolve to work together to translate the hopes for peace, development and human rights into a tangible reality for all.

Mr. Šćepanović (Montenegro): I have the honour to address the Assembly today on behalf of the Government of Montenegro. Montenegro aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Spain on behalf of the European Union.

Today, as we mark the sixty-fifth anniversary of the historic victory over fascism, we mourn all victims of the Second World War. At the same time, we want to express our gratitude to the millions of people who gave their lives to create a better, secure and peaceful world.

Today we are proud of our common achievements, and we hail the progress that has been made over the past 65 years in overcoming the tragic legacy of the Second World War and in achieving global peace and security, reconciliation, international and regional cooperation and the promotion of democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Sixty-five years ago, Montenegro participated in celebrating the victory over fascism and the end of one of the greatest tragedies that ever afflicted the peoples of Europe and the world. Montenegro's contribution to the struggle to end the world's greatest catastrophe represents a unique example of a people's struggle for liberty and was, at the same time, an integral part of the overall liberation battle of the former Yugoslav people under the leadership of Marshal Josip Broz Tito.

Montenegro is determined to prevent the recurrence of such a European and international tragedy and has thus made a clear and unequivocal commitment to peace, security and democracy. Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations is the framework of Montenegro's future endeavours in promoting fundamental human rights and creating a peaceful world.

Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri (India): The Second World War was one of the most devastating conflicts witnessed in human history, and it is imperative that we remember all the victims of the war and pay homage to them and to their memory. We are, therefore, grateful to the General Assembly for convening this meeting and to the delegation of the Russian Federation for having piloted resolution 64/257. I stand here and salute all the valiant young men and women and the populations of all the countries who fought and ensured that we live in a world free from fascism.

It is also absolutely imperative that we use this opportunity to pledge ourselves to and ensure the very fundamental principle and purpose of the United Nations to ensure that successive generations are saved from the scourge of war.

We are commemorating the end of the Second World War in the Western theatre. In this context, as we pay homage and tribute to and salute soldiers and populations from all the countries in Europe and across the Atlantic, I think it is very important to also note and remember the huge contributions and sacrifices made by people in other parts of the world.

This is certainly true of my country. The Indian army, at the start of the Second World War, was a mere 200,000 men. This number swelled to 2.5 million men, the largest all-volunteer force raised in history until then, and it participated in most of the crucial campaigns of the Second World War, suffering nearly 35,000 fatalities and over 100,000 injuries. The sacrifices of our valorous young men and their families have indeed ensured that we live in a world free of fascism.

India had the honour to participate in the San Francisco Conference and is a founding Member of the United Nations. It is important that today, on behalf of my delegation, I pledge our strong commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its Charter. I must restate our absolute determination to be part of the international community, which needs to save successive generations from the scourge of war, and to be with the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Acting President: I now call on the observer of the Observer State of the Holy See.

Archbishop Migliore (Holy See): My delegation warmly welcomes this special solemn meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

There is no doubt that the Second World War was a terrible conflict, and it is both salutary and sobering to recall that it was the worst of several unnecessary man-made global catastrophes that made the twentieth century one of the most bitter that humankind has ever known.

The words we use for remembering and rejecting war are endless, as are the appeals for peace and peaceful coexistence among the nations, which should be based on the same values that must guide relations among individuals: truth, justice, forgiveness, active solidarity and freedom. Along with those values come certain indispensable factors for building a renewed international order: the freedom and territorial integrity of each nation, defence of the rights of minorities, an equitable sharing of the Earth's resources, effective plans for disarmament, fidelity to agreements undertaken and an end to religious discrimination and persecution.

The United Nations was born out of the ashes of a world war that was singular in terms of its untold outrages to the dignity of the human person. It is therefore fitting that the very opening lines of the Charter enshrine the immediate link between peace and respect for fundamental human rights.

The inseparability of peace and respect for the rights and dignity of the person is now accepted as self-evident, universal and inalienable. The recognition of the existence of fundamental human rights necessarily presupposes a universal and transcendent truth about humankind that not only precedes all human activity, but also determines it.

At the international level, this common dignity also determines the just measure of national interests. They are interrelational and may never be considered as absolute. In order to promote and defend them, not only is it never right to harm the legitimate interests of other States, but there is also an obligation to help promote and defend the common good of all people. Thus, respect for human dignity is the deepest ethical foundation of our search for peace and the construction of international relations that correspond to the requirements of our common humanity.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker for this special solemn meeting.

I now declare concluded the special solemn meeting in commemoration of all victims of the Second World War. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 126?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/64/PV.86

General Assembly

Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

86th plenary meeting
Thursday, 13 May 2010,10 a,m,
New York

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Tribute to the memory of His Excellency Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): It is my sad duty to pay tribute to the memory of the late President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, who passed away on Wednesday, 5 May 2010. President Yar'Adua was a man of peace. We will always remember his efforts to achieve progress and peace for the people of Nigeria and his contribution to achieving stability on the African continent.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I request the representative of Nigeria to convey our condolences to the Government and the people of Nigeria and to the bereaved family of His Excellency Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

I now invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of His Excellency Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to also seize this occasion to express our sadness and, on behalf of the General Assembly and everyone here, our condolences for the deaths resulting from the aeroplane crash near Tripoli yesterday.

I give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Alhaji Umaru Yar'Adua, the President of Nigeria and Commander in Chief of the country's armed forces.

The late President left an important mark on his country. During his relatively short period in office, he pursued his responsibilities with dignity and with respect for the rights of all. He will be remembered for his unwavering contribution to democratic governance and economic revitalization and, in particular, for his determined efforts to bring peace to the Niger Delta region.

As Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States, he fought tirelessly against unconstitutional changes of Government and for the restoration of peace and stability throughout the subregion.

I am also grateful to the late President for his commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations. One concrete demonstration of that support is Nigeria's current standing as the fourth largest troop contributor to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

As Secretary-General of the United Nations and personally, I had the honour of working with the late President in addressing regional and global issues, and I benefited greatly from his wisdom and his commitment.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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I offer my most sincere condolences to Alhaji Yar'Adua's family, to the people and Government of Nigeria and to all others touched by this loss. I extend my best wishes to his successor, His Excellency President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, as he now seeks to promote peace and development for all the people of Nigeria.

Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to again express my profound condolences for the people killed in yesterday's plane crash in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. My deepest condolences go to the families and countries involved.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of Cameroon, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): On 5 May 2010, His Excellency Mr. Umaru Yar'Adua, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, passed away as a result of illness, leaving his people in a state of grief, sadness and mourning.

On this day when the General Assembly pays a well-deserved tribute to him, allow me at the outset to express, on behalf of the Group of African States, our profound grief at this irreparable loss. With the passing of President Yar'Adua, as was recently and rightly stressed by Mr. Jean Ping, President of the African Union Commission, Nigeria and Africa have lost an eminent son and a devoted advocate of the unity and well-being of all the peoples of the continent.

Indeed, in the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the chairmanship of the Economic Community of West African States, and in his capacity as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the late lamented made a remarkable contribution in a very short time to the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in several troubled countries and regions of Africa.

It was again President Yar'Adua, a statesman of measured and conciliatory words, the hallmark of which was a call for dialogue and understanding, who with dignity, courage and skill actively pursued, in tandem with his counterpart, President Paul Biya of Cameroon, the implementation of the measures contained in the agreement reached under his predecessor, President Olusegun Obasanjo, to peacefully carry out the ruling of the International Court of Justice on the dispute pertaining to the Bakassi peninsula, thus ushering in an era of peace and strengthened and mutually beneficial fraternal cooperation between our two countries.

This busy life, highly active despite his frail health, this lofty vision, sobriety and engaging sense of humanity and fraternity are only a few of the virtues that we are now deprived by the passing of President Yar'Adua. And it is for this deprivation, and in particular for the late President's premature withdrawal, that the African group sheds its tears. We extend our most heartfelt and sad condolences to the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations, its staff, the Government and the great fraternal people of Nigeria and, through them, to the members of the family of the late President now facing the harsh realities of orphanhood.

We raise our eyes to the future and implore the heavens to give us all — the family, the new Nigerian authorities and Africa in general — the strength to bear this mourning with dignity and responsibility, faithful to the aforementioned virtues, which will henceforth be the hallmark of the legacy of President Yar'Adua. Great men pass away in silence, reverence and piety, leaving to us and to time the concern of continuing their work. May the soil of Nigeria and that of Africa, which President Yar' Adua so loved and served, cover him ever so lightly, and may his soul rest in peace in the eternity of the divine kingdom.

Another accident occurred yesterday in Tripoli, Libya, with loss of human life. The African Group expresses its sympathy to all of those afflicted by this new mourning and hopes that the souls of the departed may rest in peace in heaven.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh): The Asian Group was deeply saddened to learn that President of the Republic of Nigeria His Excellency Umaru Yar'Adua, who suffered from long-term health conditions, died Wednesday at the age of 58.

Mr. Yar'Adua began his political career in 1991. He lost his first election, but he did not give up. Seven years later, he participated again and successfully contested the governorship in 1999, winning re-election in 2003 to a second term. As a state governor, he focused on the socio-economic development of the

state, with particular attention to the education and health sectors. Not only did he pay down the huge state debt that he inherited, but he also accumulated millions in surplus in the treasury. He became known for his ascetic lifestyle and personal probity.

He won a decisive landslide victory with 70 per cent of the vote in April 2007 and was elected as the thirteenth President of Nigeria. He faced the enormous task of maintaining the development programmes begun by his predecessor, establishing peace and reconciliation in the Niger Delta, and continuing the war against widespread systemic corruption.

This is a great loss for Nigeria and the region. On behalf of myself, on behalf of my Government and on behalf of the Asian Group, I would like to convey to the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations, to the bereaved family and to the Government of Nigeria our deepest and most sincere condolences. May God grant peace to the departed soul and strength to the people of Nigeria to overcome their grief.

The Asian Group hopes that, under the able leadership of Vice President Goodluck Jonathan, now Acting President, the Republic of Nigeria will continue to strive towards a sustained democracy and prosperous country.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of Hungary, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mrs. Horváth Fekszi (Hungary): On this sad occasion, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States. We commemorate today the passing of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua of Nigeria, which is a great loss for the nation and its people. His vision contributed significantly to efforts to promote peace, stability and justice in Nigeria, and he was committed to democratic governance and reforms.

President Yar'Adua once said in an interview that

> "The problem is that people think that problems can be solved magically. Too many people with loud voices like to condemn and condemn. But with patience, we will all get there."

We need to recognize at this solemn moment that paths to democratic governance and reforms are paved with hardships and unexpected drawbacks, but these difficulties can be overcome for the sake of collective good, well-being and greater national interest.

He was convinced that people derive the greatest satisfaction from serving others, rather than serving themselves. For him, it was always important to serve his nation. Although he is no longer with us, he shall be remembered for the examples he set throughout his life with his dedicated work.

On behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, I would like to extend my condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of the late President, to the Government and to the people of Nigeria.

At the same time, allow me to express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims who perished in the tragic Libyan plane crash.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of Peru, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. Gutiérrez (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, I wish to extend to our heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of Nigeria on the regrettable death of His Excellency President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua on 5 May.

His qualities as a democrat and his career in the service of his country, together with his personal virtues as a just and upright man, provide a valuable example of leadership for the new generations of that sister African nation. President Yar'Adua's deep esteem for his people was reflected in his efforts for domestic peace and his commitment to his country's progress, a calling that he demonstrated even before assuming the presidency, when he served as Governor of the state of Katsina.

I underscore his unswerving will to continue working in the service of his country despite the health problems that had troubled him for a decade. These posed no obstacle to his continuing his work, in particular because he firmly believed in the potential of Nigeria's people and resources.

Sharing the grief afflicting the Nigerian people and expressing our condolences to President Yar'Adua's family, we hope that his legacy of commitment to the masses, to democracy and to his country's neediest not only will live on in memory but will be seen and held up as an example in the coming years in Nigeria.

On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, I would also like to join in the expressions of sorrow over the unfortunate air accident that has plunged the sister nation of Libya into mourning.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of Australia, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): On behalf of the Western European and other States Group, I extend to the people and the Government of Nigeria our sincere condolences on the death of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. Our thoughts and wishes are especially with his family at this difficult time.

President Yar'Adua was uniquely schooled in both the politics and the business of modern Nigeria. He was excited by his country's potential. He was passionate about its future. He was deeply saddened by its divisions, and he worked hard to overcome them. He deserves our recognition for his personal commitment to the rule of law and good governance and our praise for his efforts to bring peace, stability and development to the Niger Delta region. He promoted peace and stability in Africa through his support of Nigeria's peacekeeping efforts, and he strongly advocated democracy for Africa's development. Nigeria — currently a member of the Security Council — remains one of the mainstays of United Nations peacekeeping globally.

President Yar'Adua's passing is a great loss for Nigeria and a great loss for its people. An inextinguishable part of his legacy must be for all of us to continue his efforts to heal divisions and bring security and prosperity to his country.

The members of the Western European and other States Group are very confident that the people and the Government of Nigeria will overcome the loss and will work together to advance his vision.

Our sympathies, of course, also go to all those so deeply affected by yesterday's terrible plane crash in Libya.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of the United States, the host country.

Mr. Barton (United States of America): On behalf of President Obama and the people of the United States, let me offer our deep condolences on the passing of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Yar'Adua family and the people of Nigeria as they mourn his loss.

Today, we remember and honour President Yar'Adua's profound personal decency and integrity, his deep commitment to public service and his passionate belief in the vast potential and bright future of Nigeria's 150 million people.

President Yar'Adua was working towards building strong democratic institutions, based on constitutional processes. We know that he would want Nigeria to continue along that civilian democratic path. We urge all Nigerians to place their faith and support firmly behind orderly, democratic and constitutional mechanisms.

The United States applauds the timely inauguration of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, the lawful successor to President Yar'Adua, and we applaud efforts to unify the country at this delicate moment. We encourage the Nigerian Government to continue to move towards national democratic elections in 2011 and offer our support and assistance in those efforts.

On behalf of the United States, let me reaffirm to the Nigerian people and Government our commitment to continued friendship and partnership with them. Together, we will continue to work to tackle the common challenges that we face.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of Nigeria.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): I wish to express the profound appreciation of the Government and the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the members of the General Assembly for the unreserved support extended to Nigeria, in particular its Permanent Mission, following the death of our beloved President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

The expressions of sympathy and feelings of solidarity have been enormous and have served as pillars of support for us during this difficult period. We are indeed deeply moved by the kind words and sentiments expressed this morning in honour of our late President, who was genuinely committed to the Nigerian people and who shared the vision of the United Nations. Those sentiments will for ever be

etched in our national memory and will be conveyed to the Government of Nigeria.

I cannot but end this brief statement by thanking you, Mr. President, and the Secretary-General for being here to commiserate with us and for your heartfelt tributes. I also thank the heads of the regional groups and the representative of the host country, the United States, for their very kind words and respect. May God in his infinite mercy bless you all as we pray for the repose of the soul of our late President.

Finally, on behalf of Nigeria, I would like to pay our condolences to our brother nation Libya and all the other countries that lost citizens in the recent air crash near Tripoli. May they rest in peace.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Mr. Shalgham (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of the Libyan people and the members of the Permanent Mission of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations, I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the sentiments and condolences addressed to the Libyan people over the tragic accident that took place yesterday near Tripoli airport, in which more than 100 passengers aboard a Libyan flight from South Africa to Tripoli were killed. These condolences and this solidarity show once again our unity as an international community in good times and bad, and I will convey the sentiments that have been expressed today to our people and to the families of the victims.

On this occasion, I would also like to echo the condolences of the representatives of the regional groups on the passing of the late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, with whom I have dealt personally. He was a model of a modest and sincere human being.

Once again, I reaffirm my appreciation and gratitude and I ask God that no harm will come to any one dear.

Agenda item 136 (continued)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/64/631/Add.9)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/64/631/Add.9, in which the Secretary-General informs the President of the General Assembly that, since the issuance of his communication contained in documents A/64/631 and addenda 1 to 8, Kiribati has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in this document?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 111 (continued)

Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections

(h) Election of fourteen members of the Human Rights Council

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The 14 Member States whose terms of office will expire on 18 June 2010 are Angola, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Italy, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Qatar, Slovenia and South Africa.

In accordance with operative paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, these Member States are eligible for immediate re-election except India, Indonesia, the Netherlands, the Philippines and South Africa, which have served two consecutive terms.

The 14 vacant seats should be distributed among the regional groups as follows: four seats for the Group of African States, four seats for the Group of Asian States, two seats for the Group of Eastern European States, two seats for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and two seats for the Group of Western European and other States.

The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of the 14 members of the Human Rights Council. In accordance with resolution 60/251, membership of the Council shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and the members of the Council shall serve for a period of three years. The members of the Council shall be elected directly and individually, by secret ballot, by the majority of the members of the General Assembly. Accordingly,

97 votes constitute a majority in the General Assembly, which has a membership of 192 States.

The following States will remain members of the Human Rights Council: Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Cuba, Djibouti, France, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia. The names of those States, therefore, should not appear on the ballot papers.

The election will be held in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure of the General Assembly on elections. For this election, rules 92 and 94 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly shall be applied.

Consistent with the practice of the General Assembly, if more than the required number of Member States have obtained the votes of the majority of the members of the Assembly on the same ballot, those Member States which have obtained the largest number of votes above the required majority will be considered elected, up to the number of seats to be filled. In addition, consistent with past practice, in the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a special restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to these procedures?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Accordingly, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.

I should like to repeat that the 14 vacant seats are to be filled from among the regional groups as follows: four seats from among the Group of African States; four seats from among the Group of Asian States; two seats from among the Group of Eastern European States; two seats from among the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and two seats from among the Group of Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

In addition, I have been informed by the Secretariat that voluntary pledges and commitments made by Member States in accordance with operative paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 60/251 were accordingly issued as official documents of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

I should also like to seek the usual cooperation of representatives during the time when the General Assembly is conducting elections. I recall that all campaigning should cease in the General Assembly Hall during the voting procedure. This means that, once the meeting has begun, no more campaign material can be distributed inside the Hall. Moreover, all representatives are requested to remain in their seats so that the voting process can proceed in an orderly manner.

We shall now begin the voting process. Ballot papers marked "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E" will now be distributed. Ballot A, for the African States Group, has four blank lines for the four seats. Ballot B, for the Asian States Group, also has four blank lines for the four seats. Ballot C, for the Eastern European States Group, has two blank lines for the two seats. Ballot D, for the Latin American and Caribbean States Group, has two blank lines for the two seats. Ballot E has two blank lines for the two seats assigned to the Western European and other States Group.

I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote. A ballot paper containing more names from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. A ballot will also be declared invalid if all the names of the Member States on that ballot do not belong to the relevant region. If a ballot paper of a region contains the names of Member States that do not belong to that region or that are not eligible for re-election or that are already members of the Council, the ballot remains valid, but those names will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Bensmail (Algeria), Ms. Kyrle (Austria), Mrs. Velichko (Belarus), Mr. Lima (Brazil), Mr. Ayub (Pakistan), Ms. Tupouohomohema (Tonga) and Ms. Steele (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.10 a.m. and resumed at 12.15 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A – African States (4 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	5
Number of members voting:	183
Required absolute majority:	97
Number of votes obtained:	
Angola	170
Mauritania	167
Uganda	164
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	155

Group B – Asian States (4 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	188
Required absolute majority:	97
Number of votes obtained:	
Maldives	185
Thailand	182
Malaysia	179
Qatar	177

Group C – Eastern European States (2 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	8
Number of members voting:	180
Required absolute majority:	97
Number of votes obtained:	
Republic of Moldova	175
Poland	171

Group D – Latin American and Caribbean States (2 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	3
Number of members voting:	185
Required absolute majority:	97
Number of votes obtained:	
Ecuador	180
Guatemala	180
Peru	1

Group E – Western European and other States (2 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	6
Number of members voting:	182
Required absolute majority:	97
Number of votes obtained:	
Spain	177
Switzerland	175

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes of the members of the General Assembly, the following 14 States were elected members of the Human Rights Council for a three-year term of office beginning on 19 June 2010: Angola, Ecuador, Guatemala, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand and Uganda.

The President: I congratulate those States that have been elected members of the Human Rights Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

This concludes our consideration of sub-item (h) of agenda item 111.

Agenda item 155

Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/64/774)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, may I take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee that is before it today?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the

Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I also remind delegations that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution, entitled "Financing arrangements for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010" without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 64/264).

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 155.

Agenda item 114 (continued)

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Draft resolution (A/64/L.52)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Members will recall that the General Assembly held the debate on agenda item 114 jointly with agenda items 47, 120 and 121 at the 47th plenary meeting on 16 November 2009 and adopted decision 64/555, also under agenda items 48 and 53 (b) and (f), at its 82nd plenary meeting on 15 April 2010.

I now give the floor to the representative of Trinidad and Tobago to introduce draft resolution A/64/L.52.

Ms. Valère (Trinidad and Tobago): I have the honour on behalf of the sponsors to introduce draft resolution A/64/L.52, entitled, "Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases".

On behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), I would like to thank the World Health Organization (WHO) for its support throughout the process and look forward to its continued support in the future. CARICOM also takes this opportunity to thank all those who contributed constructively during the negotiations, as well as the over 100 sponsors of the draft resolution, in particular the African Group, which has sponsored as a bloc. We view the broad support for the draft resolution as indicative of the significant impact of non-communicable diseases on the health, productivity, economies and development aspirations of all countries.

Non-communicable diseases, in particular diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases, which share common risk factors, can no longer be allowed to flourish as a silent epidemic, accounting as they do for 60 per cent of all deaths globally. The vast majority of these are in developing countries. While often mistakenly viewed as lifestyle diseases of wealthy societies, the data indicate that non-communicable diseases affect all classes and have a disproportionate impact on poor people and developing nations. Within our subregion, it is projected that non-communicable diseases could contribute to three quarters of deaths by 2030. WHO predicts that non-communicable disease-related deaths in Africa will rise by 27 per cent over the next decade.

However, despite this sobering data on mortality, the scourge of non-communicable diseases is far more than an issue of public health. For much of the world, it is a fundamental development challenge that robs all States of their most productive workers, consigns families to poverty and imposes costs on States that often approach 7 per cent of their gross domestic product. WHO estimates that the lost economic output from heart disease, stroke and diabetes in developing countries alone will exceed $1.25 trillion by 2015. It is a cost that we can ill afford, particularly as developing

countries continue to grapple with the fallout of the global economic crisis on our fragile economies.

Mahatma Gandhi is quoted as having said, "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver". However, modern reality demonstrates that, for many Governments, health and economic wealth are inextricably linked. A sick country is a poor country.

In various States and regions, Governments are paying increasing attention to the impacts of non-communicable diseases on health and development. CARICOM's 2007 declaration on non-communicable diseases, the Commonwealth's 2009 statement on action to combat non-communicable diseases, the 2011 ministerial conference being planned by the Russian Federation, and the recent news of an initiative against childhood obesity here in the United States — to name but a few — are all part and parcel of the new attention being paid to this gathering but too often overlooked epidemic.

Within the United Nations system, WHO has recognized the monumental health-care implications of these diseases and approved its 2008-2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases. Civil society organizations, most notably the recent alliance comprising the International Diabetes Federation, Global Cancer Control, the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease and the World Heart Federation, have also played a leading and invaluable role in raising awareness and addressing the causes and effects of non-communicable diseases. The draft resolution seeks to harness this new energy and to help shape a coordinated global response to non-communicable diseases and all of their diverse impacts.

The draft resolution calls for the convening of a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, with the participation of heads of State and Government, on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in September 2011. This high-level meeting will give political impetus to the coordination, prevention and control efforts that are necessary to combat these diseases. The draft resolution also makes the crucial connection between non-communicable diseases and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We in the Caribbean Community wholeheartedly embrace the draft resolution's call to highlight the rising global incidence and the socio-economic impact of the high prevalence of non-communicable diseases at the MDG review meeting to be held later this year.

In committing to increase and coordinate our efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases, we recognize, in broad terms, some of the steps that must be taken and deficiencies that must be addressed. We know, for example, that we must strengthen our systems for data collection, particularly in developing countries. We know that the priority accorded to non-communicable diseases in development cooperation must be enhanced. And we know that we must recommit to strengthening national health systems in areas that include budgetary allocations, financing, information and access to medicines. But most of all, we know that political will must be marshalled and buttressed in this new front of our ongoing health and development battle. All of these issues are addressed in this draft resolution.

The General Assembly's consideration of this draft resolution is a historic turning point in the global struggle to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and their impacts. The battle against non-communicable diseases has not received the level of attention, coordination or funding that reflects their staggering mortality rate or socio-economic impact. Today, we begin the process of changing that oversight.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat in connection with draft resolution A/64/L.52.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): In connection with draft resolution A/64/L.52, entitled "Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases", I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, with the participation of heads of State and Government, on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in September 2011. It would also decide to hold consultations on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, with a view

to conducting consultations, preferably before the end of 2010. It would request the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, in collaboration with Member States, the World Health Organization and the relevant funds, programmes and other specialized agencies of the United Nations system, on the global status of non-communicable diseases, with a particular focus on the development challenges face by developing countries.

Since the consultations on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, as called for in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, have yet to be held, there is insufficient information available to the Secretariat at this time to determine the full extent of the programme budget implications arising from the adoption of the draft resolution.

Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/64/L.52, the Secretary-General would submit a statement of programme budget implications, if any, to the General Assembly as soon as specific decisions on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly are taken, based on the results of the consultations called for in operative paragraph 2.

As regards the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, called for in operative paragraph 4, it is determined that the report could be processed and issued in the six official languages of the United Nations by using existing resources approved for the biennium 2010-2011.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We will now take a decision on draft resolution A/64/L.52, entitled "Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases". I call on the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of draft resolution A/64/L.52, the following countries have become sponsors of the draft resolution: Azerbaijan, Belgium, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cameroon on behalf of the Group of African States, Croatia, Cuba, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey and the United States of America.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that the General Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/64/L.52?

Draft resolution A/64/L.52 was adopted (resolution 64/265).

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to those delegations wishing to make statements after the adoption of resolution 64/265.

Mr. Oyarzun (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: the candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.

The European Union welcomes the adoption by consensus of resolution 64/625, on non-communicable diseases, which proves the significance and relevance of that topic and the importance that the international community attaches to it. In particular, we wish to commend the delegations of the Caribbean Community for their initiative, leadership and efforts in achieving that result.

Global health cannot improve unless we address the growing burden of health problems associated with non-communicable diseases, which are the primary cause of mortality in the world, representing 60 per cent of all deaths, with 80 per cent of such deaths in middle-income and low-income countries. Many of those deaths are premature, and the rate of non-communicable diseases could be lowered; this requires concerted preventive action by all.

In the European Union countries, there are relatively high rates of non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, obesity disorders and musculoskeletal disorders, that can be attributed to an interaction of genetic and environmental factors, and, especially, lifestyle factors such as smoking, alcohol abuse, poor diet and lack of physical activity.

In its health strategy, the European Union recommends addressing the prevention of those diseases by developing strategies and mechanisms to address the key determinants, which arise from both lifestyle and social and environmental factors. Prevention is key, along with information exchange on the threat of non-communicable disease, including gender-specific health risks and rare diseases, and on the necessary response. Given that most of those diseases are preventable, the main activities should focus on raising public awareness, building knowledge and strengthening preventive measures. The European Union includes prevention in its community policies and promotes setting up networks and information systems among member States to generate a flow of information, analysis and the sharing of experiences in the area of public health.

We are also aware of the lack of sufficient statistical data in this area and are convinced that it is important to develop and utilize reliable indicators of the trends in non-communicable diseases and their risk factors. While international cooperation and coordination are the keystone of success, the European Union believes that the World Health Organization is the appropriate United Nations agency and needs to play a leadership role in proposing good solutions.

The European Union welcomes the decision to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in September 2011. We are convinced that greater effort is needed on the part of the World Health Organization and United Nations Member States to lower the rate of non-communicable diseases and the resulting illnesses and premature deaths. In that regard, the European Union will take an active part in the consultations on the 2011 high-level meeting.

Mr. Barton (United States of America): The United States was pleased to be a sponsor of resolution 64/265, which brings much needed attention to the growing global public health challenges posed by non-communicable diseases. We would like to express our particular appreciation to the States members of the Caribbean Community for leading this important initiative. Almost all countries are facing emerging epidemics of non-communicable diseases, with the greatest increases being experienced in developing countries.

The United States is committed to addressing the mortality and disease burden posed by non-communicable diseases at home and abroad. First Lady Michelle Obama is raising awareness of childhood obesity and the importance of healthy eating through a national campaign called Let's Move. That campaign is enlisting the support of a broad range of partners to encourage children to be physically active and to help parents and schools make healthy family and school food choices.

The United States will also actively support effective actions by other countries to deal with non-communicable diseases. Our global efforts should strengthen and complement the efforts of the World Health Organization (WHO), in particular the WHO Global Strategy for Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health.

As we have noted in the past, we consider access to medicines to be one of a wide array of elements that are fundamental to the progressive realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. We also note that this resolution does not define the content of that right.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 114.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

United Nations A/64/PV.87

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

87th plenary meeting
Thursday, 20 May 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

In the absence of the President, Ms. Štiglic (Slovenia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Agenda items 48 and 114 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/701)

The Acting President: Members will recall that that General Assembly held a debate on agenda item 48, jointly with agenda items 114, 120 and 121, at its 47th plenary meeting, on 16 November 2009. Members will also recall that, under agenda items 48 and 114, the Assembly adopted resolution 64/184 at its 66th plenary meeting, on 21 December 2009, as well as decision 64/555 at its 82nd plenary meeting, on 15 April 2010.

It is my pleasure to welcome members to the formal debate and panel discussion to consider the report of the Secretary-General on human security under agenda items 48 and 114 (A/64/701). I would like to extend my gratitude to the Secretary-General for this timely report. My thanks also go to Member States that have provided valuable support in preparing for this debate.

The report of the Secretary-General on human security has been prepared as the follow-up to paragraph 143 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), in which heads of State and Government unanimously recognized that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential. They also agreed to further discuss the notion of human security in the General Assembly.

To that end, significant efforts have been made by Member States over the past five years. In May 2008, the General Assembly gathered for an informal thematic debate dedicated to the concept of human security. Some 40 Member States took the floor during the debate to reflect on the scope of the concept and to further explore ways to follow up on the reference to human security in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document. Meanwhile, the Friends of Human Security and the Human Security Network have contributed greatly to the clarifying conceptual discussions and to advancing operational aspects of human security.

Today's formal debate and panel discussion is an opportune moment to reflect on that progress and move our discussion forward. To guide us in that endeavour, we have a most distinguished panel, whose members share a wealth of knowledge on the concept of human security. I would like to welcome them and thank them all for their participation. I wish the Assembly a most fruitful and successful discussion and look forward to

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hearing the outcome of its deliberations over the coming two days.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I want to express my appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this important thematic debate and panel discussion on human security. Five years ago, heads of State and Government committed themselves to discuss and define the notion of human security. I want to thank Member States for their hard work in advancing the understanding of this important concept.

We are living in an interconnected world. Today's crises transcend borders and threaten the lives and livelihoods of billions of men, women and children around the globe. No region has been left untouched; no country is immune. The economic and financial crisis has disrupted jobs and economic security in both developed and developing countries. The food-price crisis has left over 1 billion people hungry, and more than 17,000 children are dying of malnutrition every day. Last year, over 200 million people were affected by natural disasters, and violent conflicts have displaced a record 42 million people. Meanwhile, the recent H1N1 flu pandemic has highlighted the human and economic costs of health emergencies. Today, it is increasingly clear that the health of one community has serious implications for the health of all communities.

Our challenges are shared. So, too, is our commitment to enhance freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to live in dignity for all. That is why my report calls for an expanded understanding of security where the protection and empowerment of people form the basis and the purpose of our actions. We must ensure that the gains of today are not lost to the crises of tomorrow. So, our actions must focus on people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and preventive strategies at every level.

That is the human security approach. Human security is fully in line with the provisions of the United Nations Charter. The concept strengthens State sovereignty by providing Governments with effective tools that look at root causes of persistent and emerging threats. As a result, human security supports early warning systems that diminish the impact of such threats. The focus is on building Government and local capacities by identifying the concrete needs of populations under stress, developing solutions that are rooted in local realities and building partnerships that are targeted and cost-effective and that capitalize on comparative advantages. That combination not only improves the resilience of Governments and people to insecurities; it contributes to greater human, national, regional and international security.

Such an understanding of human security is also at the core of the work of the United Nations. Significant progress has been made to integrate human security into the work of the Organization. The United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security has provided resources to rebuild war-torn societies, prevent, mitigate and respond to natural disasters and strengthen food security. It has also invested in improving access to health care and education in times of crisis, and in mobilizing community leadership.

Human security is also an important tool for advancing our efforts to build one United Nations. In a project implemented in Tanzania, for example, it was noted that the human security approach required United Nations organizations to work as one and to combine their respective expertise. That helped to further strengthen the impact of the project.

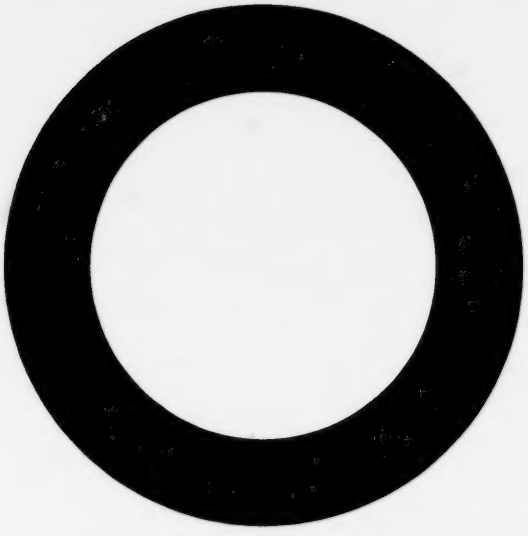
Instead of adding layers to the work of the United Nations, human security provides the Organization with a framework to capitalize on our comparative advantages, to bolster our actions, to galvanize our work and to revitalize our partnership. Let us continue our combined efforts to strengthen the political, social, environmental, economic and cultural systems that are the building blocks of stability, security and human dignity.

I wish members a successful discussion and debate on this important concept.

The Acting President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

Before adjourning, may I remind members that, as announced in today's *Journal*, there will be a panel discussion, entitled "People-centred approaches: the added value of human security", in the General Assembly Hall immediately following this meeting.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.



United Nations A/64/PV.88

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

88th plenary meeting
Thursday, 20 May 2010, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

In the absence of the President, Ms. Štiglic (Slovenia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda items 48 and 114 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/701)

Mr. Yáñez-Barnuevo (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan align themselves with this statement.

At the outset, the European Union would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting to consider the Secretary-General's report on human security (A/64/701) under agenda items 48 and 114.

The European Union welcomes the Secretary-General's report, which provides a comprehensive update on developments related to human security since the adoption of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1). In this regard, it is worth recalling that in 2005, the heads of State and Government agreed to discuss the notion of human security within the framework of the General Assembly and that, in the informal debate that took place on 22 May 2008, it was already apparent that there was a growing interest in the concept. The European Union believes that human security should be a means for people to holistically address the multidimensional challenges we face today. Above all, human security represents a new way of thinking that requires reflection on how to respond, together and efficiently, to the great challenges that confront humankind.

I wish to recall the oft-repeated phrase that there is no development without security and no security without development, and that neither security nor development can exist without respect for human rights. In that regard, human security means the right to a decent life, based on a series of factors that the European Union believes should be examined in detail and from a holistic perspective.

First, combating poverty can contribute to both human security and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. That is why the European Union stresses that the Treaty of Lisbon precisely enshrines the fight against poverty as one of the leading inspirations for its international action.

Second, post-conflict situations are defined by the fragility of peace processes. Thus, the international community must strengthen its efforts to promote the protection of civilians in conflict situations. The European Union believes that the Peacebuilding

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Commission has a key role to play as an inclusive and flexible intergovernmental platform aimed at bringing cohesion to the political, security, development and humanitarian aspects of such situations.

Third, with regard to mines and other unexploded ordinance, the European Union would also like to express its concern about the humanitarian and development challenges caused by the presence of mines and other unexploded ordinance that continue to hinder the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes, as well as humanitarian assistance operations.

Fourth, much more needs to be done in the area of prevention and mediation. That is why the European Union is redoubling its efforts to work in partnership with the United Nations and other organizations, in particular regional organizations and especially the African Union, to promote support for mediation efforts whenever possible.

Fifth, with regard to the situation of children in armed conflict, the European Union remains deeply concerned about the protection of children from the effects of violence and highlights the need to address the short- and long-term impacts of armed conflict on children. In this context, the European Union wishes to highlight the important work undertaken by the Security Council and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Coomaraswamy.

Sixth, with regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women, the European Union stresses the importance of the commitments made pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). Those commitments should be transformed into concrete action through the adoption of clear indicators. In this context, the appointment of Ms. Wallström as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict was an important step. We believe that gender considerations should always be included in peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies. The European Union therefore believes that the future gender entity should play a crucial role in promoting gender equality and empowering women throughout the world.

Seventh, the responsibility to protect is an aspect of human security that is also addressed in the report of the Secretary-General. The European Union strongly supports implementing the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. In that regard, we believe that the concepts of human security and the responsibility to protect are mutually reinforcing.

Eighth and last, I would like to refer to climate change. There is growing concern about the adverse effects of climate change throughout the planet. In order to address the challenge posed by climate change, the European Union has adopted a strategy that includes implications at the regional level. I should like once again to reiterate that the European Union believes that we should continue to build on the Copenhagen Accord and not forget that the adverse effects of climate change are a priority, especially in the most vulnerable developing countries and, in particular, in least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as in the African continent in general.

The European Union attaches great importance to the recommendation of the Secretary-General that we take into account the added value of the concept of human security and the need to continue to hone the concept so that it may be incorporated into all United Nations activities. In conclusion, the European Union therefore supports the Secretary-General's vision that the implementation of the concept of human security does not in itself mean any additional work for the Organization, but that it complements and focuses the activities of the United Nations in a broad spectrum of areas — always predicated on the goal of achieving the rights of all people to a dignified life.

Ms. Moses (Nauru): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Pacific island developing States represented at the United Nations: the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu and my own country, Nauru. We associate ourselves with the statement to be delivered by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on human security (A/64/701). Human security can be broadly defined as the freedom from fear and the freedom from want, as well as the opportunity of individuals to enjoy their rights and fully develop their human potential.

But who is responsible for human security? The report states that it is primarily Governments. However, it rightly acknowledges that, in today's interconnected world, many threats to human security cannot be overcome by one nation acting alone. That is clearly the case for the small island developing States (SIDS) of the Pacific. To a large extent, our security lies in the hands of others.

We did not create the financial crisis, but our islands have suffered greatly in the subsequent economic downturn. We have little impact on the volatility of global food and energy prices. Yet, years after prices fell in most countries, prices in the Pacific have remained at historically high levels. The greatest threat to the human security of our people is climate change. Even now, we are fighting a losing battle against the dangerous impacts of climate change, which are rapidly eroding our food security, water security and public health.

It is important to remember that these are all man-made disasters for which the Pacific SIDS bear almost no responsibility. Nor do our small countries have the resources necessary to mitigate the damage caused by these and other global crises. Therefore, we have no choice but to rely on multilateral institutions and the international community for help in preserving some measure of human security for our people. However, those sources of assistance are failing us. Progress in the Pacific towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals has stalled, and the emissions-reduction pledges currently on the table fall far short of what is necessary to prevent catastrophic climate change.

Human security is not a new concept. It is one of the foundational principles behind the modern social welfare State, the institutions of which have alleviated poverty, improved health and education, and protected people from the vagaries of human life throughout the developed world. However, those same countries have established systems and engaged in activities that have failed to improve, and have often undermined, human security in many developing countries.

A central question remains: How can the concept of human security be used to achieve the reality of human security in the developing world? The Secretary-General's report proposes using human security as an analytical framework for formulating comprehensive solutions to complex and cross-cutting problems. That proposal has merit, as the framework is versatile and can be used to analyze a broad range of problems. However, we must avoid some pitfalls.

First, the concept of human security should not be used to erode established human rights and fundamental freedoms, or a State's responsibility to protect those rights. Protecting those rights must remain a central focus of the international community.

Secondly, the concept of human security must be used to augment existing international initiatives rather than to trigger a proliferation of new ones. The 10-year review of the Millennium Development Goals and the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States will take place in September. Those initiatives are vital to our sustainable development. The concept of human security should be used to facilitate the success of those initiatives and not to siphon vital resources from them. We must also always strive to address the root causes of a problem. A multifaceted response is not necessarily an effective one.

For example, the Secretary-General's report places climate change in the broader context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. It also highlights the importance of improving disaster planning, promoting community-based adaptation and mitigation plans, and accelerating the transfer of information and technology. Those actions are valuable and should all be pursued with vigour. But let me be clear — no amount of development will save our islands from disappearing if the Earth continues to warm and sea levels continue to rise.

We must not obscure responsibility. We must not blame the victim. Climate change is a problem not because vulnerable countries are insufficiently resilient. Climate change is a problem because the major emitting countries have failed to adequately reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Without question, climate change has profound implications for human security in vulnerable countries. It stretches the capacity of our institutions and undermines our prospects for sustainable development. However, the threat that climate change poses to the Pacific SIDS is far worse because climate change threatens the very survival of our islands.

For that reason, the Pacific SIDS introduced and this body unanimously adopted resolution 63/281 on climate change and its possible security implications. Pursuant to the resolution, the Secretary-General released a report (A/64/350) that clearly identified multiple pathways by which climate change threatens international peace and security. The report was a welcome contribution to this urgent discussion.

Now, the time has come for the Security Council to act upon the General Assembly resolution and to begin considering ways that it can address such grave security threats. Today, the Pacific SIDS sent letters to all Security Council members, urging them to support our call for immediate action. The Security Council holds primary responsibility under the United Nations Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has a legal duty to use the expansive powers granted to it to address the security threats posed by climate change.

If fostering human security is indeed a priority of the international community, it must start by addressing the root causes of our insecurity. Only then will people in the Pacific have a chance to live life free from want and fear.

Mr. Goledzinowski (Australia): Australia is privileged to deliver this statement today on behalf of the countries of the Pacific Islands Forum as the current Chair of the group, but first I would like to acknowledge the powerful statement just delivered by Ambassador Moses on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States.

We note the Secretary-General's report (A/64/701) and would like to thank him for his work as part of the broader effort to apply the concept of human security to the work of the United Nations. The barriers to human security across the globe are diverse and complex. We can disagree — and no doubt we will — about how different types of security challenges relate to one another, both in the real world and here at the United Nations. However, focusing on a group such as the Pacific Islands Forum tends to strip away much of that complexity.

When we look at the Pacific family, particularly its smallest members, we see with awful clarity what the term human security actually means. Small island communities are grappling with the simultaneous threat of sea-level rise, extreme weather events, the decline in viable fisheries and changes to traditional patterns of subsistence agriculture, with the consequent pressures on inter-communal relations. For those communities, the interconnectedness of security threats needs no explanation. To put the vulnerability of small island States into context, when Cyclone Heta hit Niue in 2004, it damaged 90 per cent of housing and wreaked destruction estimated at more than five times the country's gross domestic product, or the equivalent of 200 years' worth of exports.

Most of us can only begin to guess what sort of pressure that puts on societal institutions. Even in Australia, it is the indigenous people of the Torres Strait Islands, a group of low-lying islands to the North of the continent, that will be most affected in their enjoyment of the human rights to housing, water, food and health, as well as their cultural right to land.

As the Ambassador of Spain noted earlier, speaking on behalf of the European Union, development, human rights and freedom from conflict are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. To achieve such conditions, individuals in developing States need to have their voices heard, most importantly in their own countries, but also here at the United Nations.

That was one of the messages of the recent Small Island Developing States Day, which was marked during the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The effective review of the Mauritius Strategy will be one way to ensure that those voices are heard.

As Ambassador Moses also reminded us, we must not forget that climate change poses an existential threat to many Pacific islands. The voices of the most vulnerable were also heard here nearly one year ago when, on 3 June 2009, the General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 63/281, entitled "Climate change and its possible security implications". Although the resolution focused on the threat of climate change to international peace and security, the issue has a clear human dimension as well.

We have come a long way in that one year, and this debate is evidence of that. However, we need further discussion on the definition of human security and how to address the root causes of human insecurity. We have to go further to ensure the security of all peoples, especially those of the small island States, who experience unique vulnerabilities to

security threats that can be abated only by collective international effort.

Mr. Hernández-Milian (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is an honour for Costa Rica to speak today in its capacity as Chair of the Human Security Network (HSN) on behalf of the following members: Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand and Slovenia, as well as South Africa in its capacity as observer. We thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this formal meeting and for organizing this morning's constructive panel discussion on "People-centred approaches: the added value of human security". We also wish to thank the Secretary-General for submitting his report on human security (A/64/701) and for its references to the work of the Human Security Network.

The new, multiple, complex and interrelated threats and vulnerabilities that compromise our survival, well-being, livelihoods and dignity have become increasingly transnational and require us to act collectively to address them effectively. The impact of the global financial and economic crisis, rising food prices, climate-related emergencies, protracted conflicts, transnational crime and health concerns have had multidimensional effects that, in some cases, have exceeded or reduced the capacity of our individual Governments to respond on their own.

Today's new insecurities and vulnerabilities are global and interdependent, may involve multiple actors, transcend military solutions and require increased cooperation. In our view, the indivisibility among peace, security, development and human rights necessarily calls for an integrated conceptual approach to security in three interdependent aspects — human, national and international security — whereby a shortfall in any one of those dimensions will affect the others.

However, it is also important to clarify that human security does not entail the use of force or an expansion of the conventional concept of security. In our view, the basic principle of the concept is that people should be at the centre of our efforts, not only as passive objects of protection, but also through their active empowerment. Human security is the cornerstone that connects and complements the goals of ensuring national and international security with the security and well-being of our communities and of individuals, in particular the more vulnerable.

Human security has become a useful operational tool in assisting Governments to identify critical and pervasive threats to the welfare and stability of their people. The human security perspective can help Governments to design and implement policies and strategies against emerging threats beyond State concerns surrounding military security. It is people-centred, context-specific and holistic approach provides significant opportunities to address the root causes of conflicts, combat poverty and inequality and build more secure and sustainable environments based on the participation and engagement of all sectors of society.

It is particularly relevant to emphasize as well the importance of international cooperation and multilateralism. The implementation and mainstreaming of the concept of human security require multi-stakeholder responses through the establishment of partnerships and synergies. As highlighted in the report, the concept of human security has been further refined and promoted by various international initiatives and reports both within and outside the United Nations system, such as the work of the Commission on Human Security, the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, the Friends of Human Security and our Human Security Network. In addition, several regional and subregional organizations have played a very important role in this regard.

Over the past 10 years, our Network has considered a broad spectrum of common global challenges, ranging from conflict to post-conflict issues, such as anti-personnel mines; small arms and light weapons; the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including women and children; transitional justice and peacebuilding. Fully aware that human security is not limited to the absence of conflict, but is linked above all to the creation of social, cultural, economic and environmental conditions to prevent conflicts while at the same time ensuring the survival, well-being, livelihood and dignity of all human beings. We have also included on our agenda important issues related to HIV and AIDS and health concerns in general, environment, poverty alleviation, climate change and human rights.

The Human Security Network strongly believes in the added value of the concept of human security. We can look to the experiences of many States that have already applied the human security concept in their national policies to understand the real value of the concept. We also believe that mainstreaming this practical approach into the relevant activities of the United Nations system will promote a greater sense of local ownership and strengthen healthy State-society relations. The real aspiration of human security is to satisfy simultaneously our global and national security concerns with the concrete needs of our populations. This approach will reveal mismatches among domestic, regional and international policies and help to identify priority necessities. Subsequently, short-, medium- and long-term strategies should be developed based on the actual needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of the affected communities.

Finally, the members of the HSN wish to register our support for the initiative to present a draft resolution of the General Assembly on human security. Mindful of the different perspectives around this concept, we would like to focus on its practical added value as a people-centred, context-specific and holistic approach to interrelated threats and vulnerabilities while acknowledging the various international, regional and sub regional initiatives. Our preference would be a concise procedural draft resolution that reaffirms paragraph 143 of the World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1) and takes note of the report of the Secretary-General in order to enable further consideration of issues related to human security at the sixty-sixth session and receive a new progress report on the topic.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): As co-Chair of the Friends of Human Security, Mexico welcomes the convening of this meeting, which will contribute to broadening the dialogue and reflection begun some years ago by the international community on the importance of human security. The efforts undertaken by various initiatives, such as the Commission on Human Security, the Friends of Human Security and the Human Security Network, have led to greater understanding of the paradigm of State security and thus of peace, international security and development.

The interdependent and transnational character of traditional and new threats has compelled States to adopt measures based on a people-centred human security that guarantees State control over security policies for confronting such threats and ensures that these policies do not have a negative impact on or implications for their communities. This is a major but not impossible challenge to meet.

In this context, we must integrate the human security approach into the social dimension of security policies that complement poverty and hunger reduction strategies, mitigate the vulnerability of certain sectors of the population, and reduce disaster risks and the impact of pandemics both in situations that are free of violence and in situations of armed conflict. The natural aspirations of our peoples to prosperity and security require our public policies to include the human security approach.

Efforts to integrate human security into the priorities of the United Nations and its Members have been many and progressive. Mexico therefore welcomes the submission of the Secretary-General's report on human security (A/64/701), which contributes to greater understanding of the issue, defines its scope and offers guidelines for its application. The report provides a timely focus that, on the one hand, prepares the way for placing people at the centre of decision-making and the adoption of public policies and, on the other, provides a prospective multidimensional overview of the implementation of a human security approach that prioritizes early warning systems and the mitigation of recurrent crisis situations.

Mexico also welcomes the report's contribution to alleviating the tension between human security and human rights, as it stresses the complementary nature of both. Human security is not a legal regime per se and therefore does not generate new obligations or replace existing regimes based on the protection of persons. On the contrary, because of its complementary nature, human security contributes to the rule of law because it involves recognition that respect for and the application of a legal architecture based on transparency and accountability create conditions favourable to the individual. In addition, and for that reason, it is important to stress that at any moment human security can be considered to be the equivalent of the responsibility to protect. Both concepts follow a specific logic that gives human security a fundamentally preventive character.

Mexico believes that human security does not involve new duties or obligations for the United Nations, but that it helps to focus its activities in the related fields of security, development and human rights. The list of issues to which human security brings added value is very long. Some of those issues — hunger, the economic crisis and its various side effects, and climate change, just to mention a few — are widely known to those of us here in all their magnitude and gravity because they undermine the right of people to live free from fear and poverty.

This list is not an exhaustive one. We therefore believe it timely to call on the United Nations to continue to integrate the human security approach into the various fields within its competence, such as the mandates of peace missions, peacebuilding processes, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, arms trade control, emergency reconstruction, the systematic violation of human rights, humanitarian crises, food and health insecurity and environmental damage. We also believe that our Organization, through its agencies and programmes, should continue analyzing human security with the mechanisms already at its disposals to that end, such as the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, to give but one example.

If human security has anything to offer, it is its multidimensional, comprehensive and progressive nature, which represents a qualitative leap in the way we conceive of the human individual, who is at the centre of this debate, and the decision-making process concerning political stability and State security. Mexico hopes that human security will become a pillar in the decision-making of States and United Nations through which we enhance the capacity of individuals and mitigate the lacunas that cause the most damage.

My delegation supports the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General and, as co-Chair of the Friends of Human Security, invites Members States and the United Nations system to pursue this broadened dialogue in all existing mechanisms in order to reach the necessary consensus within our Organization.

Mr. Edrees (Egypt): I would like at the outset to thank the Secretary-General for introducing earlier today his report on human security (A/64/701), which will undoubtedly assist Member States in fulfilling the commitment they made in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1) to discuss and define human security in the General Assembly. The report represents an important contribution, which I am sure will facilitate the discussion, as no agreement exists thus far on the definition or the scope of the term "human security" among the general membership.

I would also like to express appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this important plenary meeting to consider the report, and for his initiative to organize a panel discussion in the morning on the critical issue of the added value of human security.

Egypt has closely followed the discussion on human security since 1994. We took part in formulating paragraph 143 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and observed the evolution of its implementation within the Human Security Network and the Friends of Human Security. We welcome the role played by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security in the implementation of various important projects. We commend in particular the role that Japan has played since its announcement in 1997 that human security would be one of its foreign policy pillars, both in support of the Trust Fund and in encouraging, along with Mexico and others, the deliberations on this important issue today.

Egypt believes that the discussion and definition of human security should continue in the General Assembly, based on the international commitment to the principles enshrined in the Charter, in addition to which come the principles of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of States. It should also be based on the principles of international humanitarian law, with due respect for the right to self-determination for peoples under foreign occupation.

The General Assembly recognized in 2005, at the level of the heads of State and Government, that all individuals, in particular those in vulnerable situations, are entitled to freedom from fear, freedom from want, and equal opportunity to enjoy all of their rights and fully develop their human potential. In Egypt's view, people are not inherently vulnerable, but become so due to the socio-economic contexts in which they find themselves. That is particularly true of women, children, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, asylum-seekers, persons belonging to

national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, indigenous peoples, persons deprived of their liberty and peoples under foreign occupation.

While we support the noble objectives of achieving human security for those people who find themselves in vulnerable situations, we believe that international peace and security are attainable only through eliminating inequalities and injustices and fostering common grounds for mutual understanding. It is therefore essential that the discussion on human security be centred on development alongside the promotion of respect for human rights. That is the exact nature of the projects under way, which are reflected in the letter by the Ambassadors of Japan and Mexico contained in document A/62/695.

Special attention should be given in this regard to the needs of countries undergoing or emerging from conflicts so as to prevent relapse into conflict and ensure that humanitarian assistance is accessible and that policies seeking to enforce economic blockades, deprivation and collective punishment are excluded, in full respect of the commitment made by all States under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants which provide that, under no circumstances, may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

If we are to deal with human security within the United Nations system in an effective manner, we should commit ourselves to adopting a cooperative approach to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms through international support for national capacity-building efforts in order to enable Governments to meet their national obligations, particularly within the context of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Human Rights Council, supported by such regional review mechanisms as the African Peer Review Mechanism. We should also commit ourselves to supporting the activities of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the field of comprehensive human development, with special attention to health, education and the advancement and protection of women and children.

Meanwhile, we should work together to strengthen regional capacities to deal with emerging issues such as natural and environmental disasters, and those that are human-made, such as climate change, nuclear disasters and their connection to the acquisition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as their continued existence and stockpiling represent a perilous threat to the survival of mankind. In addition, we should tackle with more determination the issues of landmines, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and their correlation with drug trafficking and the illicit trade in, and exploitation of, natural resources and with the fuelling of armed conflicts.

In doing so, we need to agree on a comprehensive, multidimensional and integrated approach in order to overcome the negative repercussions of ongoing international crises, be they related to food security, environmental security, energy security, combating hatred and incitement, terrorism and human trafficking. This approach needs to be devised in such a way that would also enable us to effectively respond to emerging challenges that impede the realization of the potentials and aspirations of individuals and peoples for progress and prosperity, thus bolstering the ability of developing countries to achieve their development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Our endeavours to define and monitor the operationalization of the concept of human security should remain under the umbrella of the General Assembly, in the hope that they will create a driving force to restore confidence between the North and the South. We should be careful not to allow the use of the concept of human Security to be a back door to introduce or implement controversial concepts, or to justify intervention in domestic affairs, particularly between Governments and their peoples. National Governments have the primary responsibility to provide human security to their citizens. The responsibility of the international community is to complement that role and to provide the necessary support, upon the request and with the consent of national Governments, through building their capacities in order to meet the immediate and impending challenges and threats.

To enable Governments to perform their sovereign role, an effective partnership needs to be established among Governments, regional and international organizations, financial institutions and civil society, based on the principle of national ownership.

Human security needs to become an area that unites efforts, not a cause for conflict of interests, an area of convergence, not divergence.

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh): I thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting. I also thank the Secretary-General for his report on human security, contained in document A/64/701. The report is a very good compilation of various aspects of human security, which first emerged as a concept in the *Human Development Report* of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1994. We see it still as an emerging concept. Different countries see the concept through different lenses. Likewise, we also have our own interpretation of the concept.

The definition containing the notion of freedom from want and freedom from fear, which was also reiterated in paragraph 143 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), as well as the definition of the independent Commission on Human Security of 2001, may provide good guidelines. We would like to consider the human security concept as one related to the development agenda. In our part of the world, and in many least developed countries, a lost crop resulting from a flood or a cyclone or a drought might be the single largest threat to human security. If there is no food to eat, the freedom to live in dignity is a distant aspiration.

Mr. Grauls (Belgium), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Freedom from want covers economic security, food security, health security and environmental security; these are all so interlinked that it does not allow the entire concept to be confined to any particular area. A comprehensive and holistic approach is needed.

In a survey conducted in Bangladesh a couple of years ago, respondents identified poverty and unemployment as the biggest problem. Needless to say, that is what economic security is all about. In that survey, the elements of insecurity which may be classified as freedom from fear — such as crime, extortion and the availability of firearms — came far down the list. When asked what makes people feel most insecure, more than half of the respondents identified natural disaster; almost the same proportion of respondents identified lack of health care as a source of insecurity.

States definitely have the primary responsibility to protect their population from pervasive threats. But, at times, they might find themselves a position where they cannot tackle them single-handedly. And that is where the international community might come in, as an aid to the Government. In that way, a country may get out of dire straits. But there are certain issues that have to be dealt with having a long-term perspective in mind.

In Bangladesh, we face a great threat posed by climate change, although we have made a minimal contribution to the factors that cause it. Floods and cyclones have become common phenomena in Bangladesh. As a lower riparian country, we were used to these, but the sudden increase in the frequency and ferocity of such disasters menaces all our development efforts and shakes our resolve. We have to reallocate our development funds to humanitarian efforts. In a study, it was found that Bangladesh loses about 10,000 hectares of land each year due to river erosion. As a result, hundreds of thousands of people are displaced, who eventually head towards the major cities, in particular the capital. Remember: we are one of the world's most densely populated countries, with over 1,200 people per square kilometre — 40 times the density of the United States.

The exercise of internal migration poses a serious threat to the already overpopulated cities. The high degree of vulnerability in the face of possible sea-level rise might ultimately lead to the displacement of millions of people living in the coastal areas of densely populated Bangladesh.

All these must be seen from a human security perspective. To date, unfortunately, the international community has been unable to come up with an agreement or convention identifying ways to rehabilitate such people: those who are displaced owing to climate change and natural disasters.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that we have to go to the root causes that result in the pervasive threats and try to address them first. Unless we include all these issues, this debate may not be of much help to the millions who are suffering from a dearth of human security.

Ms. Štiglic (Slovenia): Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statements delivered earlier by the representative of Spain on behalf of the European

Union and by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Human Security Network.

At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this important debate on human security and for organizing the panel discussion, which provide excellent and timely opportunities to continue our discussions on the human security concept. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his statement this morning and for submitting his first report on human security to the General Assembly for its consideration (A/64/701).

The report provides a comprehensive overview of developments related to the advancement of human security since the 2005 World Summit, at which heads of State and Government recognized that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential.

The main feature of human security is a people-centred approach and the security of the individual. Among other things, the report of the Secretary-General outlines how multiple, complex and highly interrelated threats affect the lives of millions of men, women and children around the world. Natural disasters, violent conflicts and their impact on civilians, climate change and the food, health, financial and economic crises take on transnational dimensions that transcend traditional notions of security. Human security involves comprehensive approaches that bring together security, development and human rights. In addressing the risks and root causes of insecurity, human security is prevention-oriented and focuses on the protection and empowerment of people.

Slovenia attaches great importance to the concept of human security. Slovenia has been a member of the Human Security Network since its establishment in 1996, and is a member of the Friends of Human Security. Slovenia also contributes to the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, which plays an important role in translating the concept of human security into concrete activities.

Slovenia has upheld its commitments to promoting human security in areas such as demining, the protection of civilians, including children and women in armed conflict, climate change, human rights education, human trafficking and others. Let me take this opportunity to highlight some of our activities.

Humanitarian and development challenges caused by the presence of landmines and other unexploded ordnance are at the core of our efforts to promote human security. They have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of mine-affected countries. The international community should therefore pay special attention to these remnants of warfare and commit to eliminating them.

Slovenia has been very active in the area of mine action, especially through the efforts of the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance, which was established by the Slovenian Government in 1998. A successful regional approach in South-Eastern Europe has encouraged further engagement. The Fund has expanded its activities to other areas of the world, including the Caucasus, the Middle East and Central Asia.

Another focus of our endeavours is the protection of civilians. Seventy per cent of the casualties in recent conflicts have been non-combatants, most of them women and children. In October 2010, we will mark the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. That will be a good opportunity not only to exchange information about best practices and lessons learned, but also to enhance the role of women in all aspects of security, conflict management and peacekeeping operations. Slovenia will mark that important anniversary with its national action plan on resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008), which is currently under preparation. Slovenia will also prepare a national action plan on resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005), which address the issue of children and armed conflict.

Climate-change issues and their security-related aspects have gained importance over the past few years. Climate change exacerbates poverty, diminishes available freshwater resources and threatens food security. Furthermore, when meteorological events such as floods and storms occur more frequently, they threaten human life and property worldwide. Adaptation to climate change includes capacity-building and improving crisis management. Slovenia is active in the area of disaster-risk reduction and management and hosts the Drought Management Centre for Southeastern Europe.

In conclusion, there is growing acceptance of the concept of human security and its added value. The

concept has been reflected in the work and decisions of many regional and subregional organizations, as well as at the national level. It can also contribute importantly to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Secretary-General emphasized in his statement that human security does not bring additional layers to the work of the United Nations. Rather, it provides the Organization with a framework to capitalize on our comparative advantages, bolster our actions, galvanize our work and revitalize our partnerships. It is for that reason that Slovenia supports further discussion and the inclusion of human security on the agenda of the General Assembly. We look forward to future reports of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming human security into United Nations activities.

Mr. Cabactulan (Philippines): Allow me to express the appreciation of the Philippines for the convening of this series of General Assembly meetings to enable us to discuss and further define the notion of human security. Indeed, as an active friend of human security, the Philippines welcomes every opportunity to seek clarity for those who need more information in order for us to take the next steps beyond mere definition and tentative programmes towards a much broader and committed approach to a people-centred United Nations.

It is in that spirit that the sustained efforts of the United Nations and the leading proponents of human security among its Members are to be commended — from the initial work of the Commission on Human Security to more recent activities during the past five years. The report of the Secretary-General (A/64/701), along with the panel discussion this morning on the added value of human security and the second seminar on human security and health, hosted by Japan, provide us of more proof of the noble intention behind this concept.

The complementary relationship between human security and national sovereignty and the distinction between human security and the responsibility to protect have been clearly explained and should lay to rest any doubt about whether or not the use of force is envisaged in the concept. A review of the history of the discourse on human security reveals its strengths in the area of responding to the real and immediate needs of people, outside the traditional multilateral understanding of the term "security".

The Philippines has had the honour in the past to serve as President of the Security Council. In my personal capacity as the current President of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), I am keenly aware of the sensitivities that Member States attach to the word "security". It therefore strikes me as no coincidence that, five years ago, the last NPT Review Conference was held just as the World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1) came up with a commitment to discussing and defining the notion of human security — or that, five years later, we are back here in New York facing the urgent need to make progress beyond a sense of suspicion and distrust and to return to the ideals of the United Nations in seeking a better world for humankind.

We must therefore focus on the actual work that has been done on human security, rather than dwell on imagined fears. Our discussions in the Hall today reveal that the basic tenets of human security have been considered in the work of the United Nations since the mid-1990s, and that the more recent actual application of those concepts has been in the areas of vulnerability to natural calamities, health threats and man-made crises such as the global food, fuel, financial and economic crises, as well as in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and the prevention of conflict.

The Secretary-General's report itself stresses, in paragraph 69, that "human security is a practical approach to the growing interdependence of vulnerabilities facing peoples and communities", and in paragraph 70 that

> "the application of the human security concept does not bring additional layers to the work of the United Nations, but rather complements and focuses the activities of the Organization in these areas".

What that means is that the driving force behind human security is not new and that, in fact, the work of the United Nations has been based on the precepts underlying that notion all along.

One need only look at the list of countries that have benefited from the work of the Human Security Unit of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the projects supported by United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security. The Philippines itself has received support for five projects

from the Trust Fund. There are at least 74 other developing countries and countries in transition that are Trust Fund beneficiaries.

The most recent issue of the *Human Security Newsletter* focuses on the issue of trafficking in persons and quotes the Secretary-General's statement at the most recent Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Greece, that the international community should devote special attention to the most vulnerable migrants of all — the victims of human trafficking, especially women and girls. That link between human security and migration was raised by the Philippine Mission here in New York last year at the seventh meeting of the Friends of Human Security. It was noted that several major stakeholders in the human security discussions were also major actors on the migration issue. That people-centred approach will almost certainly be a major theme at the fourth meeting of the Global Forum, which is to be hosted by Mexico this year.

Given those examples, it is quite clear that, while there have been some reservations among a number of United Nations Members as to the scope of human security, there has also been acceptance on the part of many Members of the validity and support already given to the issues covered by the concept. It would appear that what remains is for us to proceed on a clear programme of action.

In particular, with reference to the apprehensions voiced by some delegations this morning, it is apparent that more confidence-building measures need to be undertaken. A programme of action should be consciously developed and pursued, with more information-sharing with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. A programme of action could include the following elements.

First, the activities described in the *Human Security Newsletters* could be expanded to those countries that are not clear about the objectives and intentions of the concept of human security. Secondly, those that have already benefited from the Trust Fund could provide feedback to the General Assembly on the level of transparency and impartiality in the implementation of projects. Thirdly, a higher profile for the Human Security Unit is needed, with a clear explanation of how its activities tie in or are related to the broader work of United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and rime, among others.

It is the belief of the Philippines that, once the lack of clarity is resolved and reassurance given on the continued implementation of human security programmes and projects, this worthy endeavour will produce much more benefit.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We are here at this meeting of the General Assembly to hold a debate on human security, and the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/701) makes it possible for us to do so. Before I discuss some of our thoughts on the issue, I would like to express our concern about procedures used to carry out human security activities that have not been mandated by any organ of the United Nations.

As we know, the concept of human security has not yet been accepted or defined by the States of this Organization. It is therefore worrisome that the decision was taken to establish a Human Security Unit within the structure of the Secretariat before agreement had even been reached on the term.

Our delegation has doubts and questions about the purpose of the concept. The scope proposed for its implementation is too broad and ambiguous. For instance, the aim is to merge under a single umbrella three fundamental pillars of the Organization — security, development and human rights — that are in differing spheres. We are concerned about the attempt to securitize — to use a somewhat strange term — the economic and social development agenda, whereby the use of force and the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States could be legitimized in cases in which certain powerful States may consider that the safety of the population in a given country is at risk. The consideration of this issue should adhere strictly to the fundamental purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and be addressed by the General Assembly.

Venezuela believes that the issue we are discussing should focus on the area of development. The welfare of human beings is ensured by the full exercise of their right to development and the primacy of human rights and democratic freedoms. It is up to sovereign States to determine which threats their peoples face and how they are to be addressed. States

have the obligation to provide care, support and protection for their peoples. They should implement humanist and solidarity-based policies that help to eradicate poverty and hunger. And they should build societies in which equality, justice and freedom reign.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is committed to ensuring the security, prosperity and welfare of all Venezuelans. That responsibility is exercised in full and without interference from foreign Powers seeking to impose their ideological paradigms. The report of the Secretary-General refers to new threats, but ignores the systemic and structural environment that explains the underlying causes that produce those threats and endanger the full development of human beings and the very existence of humankind. An abstract, and therefore ambiguous, definition of the term "human security" could well lead to its selective or even politicized use.

In addressing the threats facing the peoples of the world today, we call for attention to be paid to the systematic aggressions and interventions of foreign Powers, which destroy or threaten the survival of entire populations. Who protects those peoples from such threats? The insistence on questioning the ability of sovereign States to ensure the protection of their own peoples is worrying. Who should determine whether some States are unable to protect their populations? Who should design appropriate responses? In that regard, we caution that the notion of human security could be used to justify and carry out interventionist measures in countries that disagree with the dominant paradigms of capitalism and imperialism.

The world is home to a wide range of cultures and economic, political and social models. The current debate must therefore underscore that there is no single model of democracy and that no Power has the authority to impose its own doctrine on the world. The search for the welfare, progress and dignity of peoples must guide the necessary efforts at multilateralism. Those goals can be achieved with policies that respect the history, culture and cherished traditions with which all countries are endowed. For their part, States must be genuine expressions of the will and sovereignty of their peoples.

In that vein, our delegation is ready to contribute to the debate in the General Assembly. We extend a hand to all those who in good faith strive to achieve the welfare and dignity of human beings around the world.

Mr. Benítez Versón (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Almost exactly two years ago, the General Assembly held its first thematic debate on the issue of human security. That exchange made it very clear that Member States hold many and diverse opinions on how to define human security. This is a complex and sensitive issue on which we are still far from consensus.

It is therefore worrying to see the Secretariat adopt policies and take steps to implement a concept that has not yet been defined by Member States. Despite the fact that no consensus definition exists, the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/701) refers to no less than 20 structures of the United Nations system that have carried out human security projects since 1999. Cuba has no doubt as to the noble objectives of many of those projects. However, implementing ambiguous and vaguely defined concepts creates the conditions for its manipulation by certain States.

For Cuba, there is no higher priority than guaranteeing equal opportunity for all members of society to enjoy their rights and to fully develop their human potential. We are in no way calling on the international community or the United Nations to remain impassive before the numerous problems that affect the security and development of human beings. On the contrary, Cuba has always demanded and will continue to demand decisive and urgent action to address the root causes of such problems and to find just and lasting solutions to them.

Today, we face the enormous challenge posed by the current unjust, unequal and unsustainable international order. We live in a world that favours a minority that does not exceed 20 per cent of the population of the planet yet prevents the development and well-being of the remaining 80 per cent. How can the security of all human beings be guaranteed in the face of such obstacles as unequal trade, the hermetic closure of the markets of industrialized countries to our products, restrictions on the transfer of technology and the outrageous brain drain?

Unless the conditions of underdevelopment and poverty in which four fifths of humankind lives are eradicated; unless we lift 1.4 billion people from extreme poverty; unless we educate the nearly 800 million adults who cannot even read, then human security will be just an empty rhetorical phrase. How

can we talk about human security when, as pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General, 17,000 children die of hunger every day — which is to say, one every five seconds? How can we talk about human security when the Food and Agriculture Organization reports that the number of hungry people in the world has reached a record 1.02 billion people, or one out of every six?

Unless the United Nations and its development infrastructure is preserved; unless a new financial architecture with a social approach is established; unless the modest commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of the developed world's gross national product to official development assistance is met; and unless external debt is cancelled, human insecurity will continue.

Not only will there be no human security, but the survival of humankind will be impossible if the unsustainable pattern of production and consumption of industrialized countries continues. That pattern pollutes and degrades the ecosystems of the planet, depletes natural resources and is responsible for most greenhouse gas emissions. Among other things, global warming, the danger of sea-level rise, the depletion of fossil fuels and the irrational use of water resources pose very serious threats to the security of human beings.

There can be no human security without sustainable development. There will be no human security so long as there is food and energy insecurity.

Human security is incompatible with the existence of more than 22,000 nuclear weapons, over 12,000 of which are ready for immediate use. There will be no human security so long as nuclear disarmament is not achieved and the world continues to spend considerably more on the production of weapons than on saving lives.

There will be no human security if selectivity, partiality and double standards on human rights do not cease; if economic, social and cultural rights are ignored; and if the right to development is not promoted as a priority.

With regard to Cuba, I cannot fail to mention that, apart from flagrantly violating international law, the brutal economic, commercial and financial blockade that has been imposed against our country for over 50 years has cost Cuban lives and contradicts any concept of human security.

That is the reality of today's world. Our discussions cannot ignore it.

Cuba believes that a definition of human security that is acceptable to all States will necessarily have to meet at least the following basic premises.

First, it must ensure full respect for international law and the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs. The purposes and principles of the Charter cannot be rewritten, distorted, restricted or made conditional. The Charter constitutes the basis of collective security, and therefore of human security.

Secondly, we must totally rule out — explicitly and in all circumstances — the possibility use or threat of use force against States.

Thirdly, we must guarantee that the Government of every State be the only entity with the right to determine threats to human security that may exist in that State and to decide the most appropriate way to address them.

Fourthly, any foreign or external assistance or contribution to a State in relation to human security must be strictly conditioned upon the request and consent of the Government of the State in question.

Cuba will not accept a definition of human security that is not consistent with these four tenets. We will not support any concept that can be manipulated or that leaves an opening for those who seek to legitimize interventionism and unilateral actions.

To conclude, I would like to stress that the consideration of this issue should continue in the framework of the General Assembly, where we all have a voice and the right to vote and are on an equal footing, and where there is no place for hegemony. Cuba considers it essential that any decision on human security should be adopted by consensus. Otherwise, instead of bringing positions closer, we would be widening divisions on a matter that has important implications for all. In this process, there can be no impositions or unnecessary haste. On the contrary, a thorough and deep analysis that duly takes into account

the legitimate interests and concerns of all Member States should prevail.

Mr. Okuda (Japan): First of all, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, for his initiative of organizing this first formal debate on human security in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly. This important meeting builds upon the thematic debate on human security that was held in May 2008 to fulfil the commitment made by the heads of States and Governments in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1) to discuss and define the notion of human security in the General Assembly.

Allow me also to express my Government's deep gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report (A/64/701), which presents a useful basis for this debate. The report provides us with a clear and holistic picture of the concept of human security by illustrating how the concept has been formulated and defined and by taking stock of the various initiatives undertaken by Governments, regional organizations and the United Nations system that show the concept's growing acceptance in recent years. This report is undoubtedly a valuable contribution to our efforts to forge a common understanding of human security among Member States.

I would like to draw the Assembly's attention to the following three specific points addressed in the Secretary-General's report.

First, out of existing definitions of the concept of human security, the report extracts its essential components. In this respect, my delegation notes with great interest that the report states that "human security does not entail the use of force against the sovereignty of States" (*A/64/701, para. 19*).

Secondly, the report makes clear that human security and national sovereignty are not mutually contradictory concepts. On the contrary, according to the report, "the human security concept seeks to enhance the sovereignty of States" and "[i]mproved capacities of Governments and their institutions... are key components in advancing human security..." (*Ibid., para. 22*). In my delegation's view, this concept is fully consistent with the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

I would like to recall here that the preamble of the Charter commences with the words "We the peoples". The international community should therefore support the efforts made by Governments, in full respect of their national sovereignty and ownership, to create an environment that enables all individuals to fully develop their potential and livelihood.

Thirdly, the report makes a clear distinction between human security and the responsibility to protect (R2P), in line with the separate provisions contained in the World Summit Outcome, and analyzes the differences between the two concepts. The purpose of human security as agreed in paragraph 143 of the World Summit Outcome is to enable all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, to be free from fear and want, to enjoy all their rights and to fully develop their human potential. On the other hand, the purpose of R2P, as agreed in paragraphs 138 to 140 of the World Summit Outcome, is to protect populations from the four most serious types of human rights violations, namely, genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

As one of the pioneers in promoting the concept of human security, Japan appreciates the clear distinction made in the Secretary-General's report between human security and R2P. My delegation would like to remind all Member States to be mindful of the differences in scope of and means envisioned by the two concepts in future intergovernmental processes.

What, then, is the added value of human security? This question is asked very frequently. The report of Secretary-General articulates with eloquence how the concept of human security can be applied to different global issues that are already priorities of the United Nations. These cases include, inter alia, financial and economic crises, food security, threats to health, including infectious diseases, climate change and related natural hazards, and peacebuilding. The country-level aggregated approach does not suffice to effectively tackle these global issues, which are both broad and deeply interconnected.

The human security concept induces policymakers to keep a closer eye on individuals, households and communities and on their lives, livelihoods and dignity. It proposes people-centred, comprehensive, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder responses that enable the protection and empowerment of people and communities in need. Such a bottom-up perspective in policy formulation is, in our view, the

most significant added value of the concept of human security.

The concept of human security is being applied in policies and measures at the national and regional levels. Indeed, major regional and subregional organizations across the globe — including the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Organization of American States — have adopted this concept. Various United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme and UNESCO, not only adopt human security in their strategies, but also actively disseminate the concept in various countries and regions. Japan believes that the General Assembly should encourage the development of these initiatives in order to further mainstream and operationalize the concept at various levels, and in particular throughout the activities of the United Nations.

The critical nature of the role of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security cannot be underscored enough in view of its contribution to producing tangible results on the ground through the operational activities of United Nations agencies. Since its establishment in 1999, approximately 200 projects have been implemented in countries of all regions, with voluntary contributions from Japan, Thailand, Slovenia and Greece. Japan hopes that the Trust Fund's activities will be further enhanced through contributions from as many Member States as possible. Japan will continue to be engaged in operationalizing the concept of human security through its bilateral development assistance schemes, such as the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects and Grant Aid for Community Empowerment.

To follow up on the agreement set forth in the World Summit Outcome, Japan, as co-chair together with Mexico, has been organizing biannual meetings of the Friends of Human Security. As an open-ended forum for interested Member States and United Nations organizations, it has seen the participation of more than 140 Member States since its first meeting in October 2006. The main focus of our discussions has been on how to forge a common understanding of human security and how best to mainstream the concept in relevant United Nations activities. Participants concur that the human security approach is useful in addressing important global issues and pervasive threats that are mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General. They also share the view that securing human security in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals is of vital importance.

The global threats people face change with time. In a sense, human security is an evolving concept because it seeks to cope with emerging pervasive threats to people. In our view, the General Assembly, where all Member States can participate and make a contribution, is the most appropriate forum for deliberating this cross-cutting concept. This first formal debate is truly an important milestone for discussing and defining human security.

If we are to carry out the commitment we made in the World Summit Outcome, my delegation believes that the discussions on human security should be conducted on a regular basis in the General Assembly plenary, and to this end requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on further developments pertaining to human security as an important input for a future debate in the Assembly.

Finally, my Government expresses its sincere appreciation to all the delegations participating in this meeting for their engagement and invaluable contribution to the debate on human security.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): First of all, let me express my delegation's appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting. The call by the heads of State and Government in paragraph 143 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1) for States to commit themselves to the discussion on and definition of human security is an indicator of the growing international understanding of the importance of human security.

We take note with great appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General human security (A/64/701). The report correctly states that it is the primary function of Governments to ensure the well-being of their people. We are mindful that the elements reflected in the report — some global, others transnational, yet most national in scope — affect us all in some way or other. The ongoing impact of the financial crisis, questions about food security, high energy and food costs, scarce natural resources, adaptation to the effects of climate change and the impact of criminalized economies that are directly influenced by organized crime in vulnerable States — pose serious setbacks to

economic development, job creation and poverty eradication for humankind as a whole.

In turn, these setbacks have an equally negatively impact on the achievement of the targets set in the Millennium Development Goals. These challenges remind us that, first, as peoples we are not immune to the side effects of these issues, and that secondly, as Governments we must depend and rely on each other for assistance and cooperation in addressing these challenges, threats and vulnerabilities.

Naturally, South Africa fully appreciates the sentiments expressed in the Secretary-General's report with respect to incorporating elements that would seek to protect the most vulnerable and the poorest of the poor. Human security should address all current global insecurities in the economic, social and humanitarian spheres. The report points out the interrelationship among human development, human security and human rights in the pursuit of freedom from fear, freedom from want and the freedom to live in dignity. We believe that these freedoms cannot exist in isolation of each other. Therefore, as the report suggests, it is key to establish the causes and sources of human insecurity and work to address them effectively.

The African Union has placed the issue of human security at the centre of its overall policy framework for achieving lasting security and stability. Consequently, it is always through the prism of human security that the new continental organization endeavours to promote the holistic security of its peoples. By defining the concept of human security in the African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact as

> "the security of the individual in terms of satisfaction of his/her basic needs. It also includes the creation of social, economic, political, environmental and cultural conditions necessary for the survival and dignity of the individual, the protection of and respect for human rights, good governance and the guarantee for each individual of opportunities and choices for his/her full development",

African leaders underscored the need for the concept of human security to be dynamic and to encompass a broader notion of security.

We can only agree with the Secretary-General's report when it speaks about the need for human security to be people-centred, and we add that it must have sustainable development at its core. The concept should therefore also include poverty eradication in the broadest sense and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, redress of underdevelopment, prevention of the increasing marginalization of many in the developing world as a result of the unequal benefits of globalization, and freedom from disease, especially prevention and eradication of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases.

The efforts of African leaders to broaden the concept of security and bring to it a human dimension can also be clearly seen in the governance architecture set up through the African Union. Institutions such as the Pan-African Parliament, the Peace and Security Council, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Economic and Social Council all emphasize the continent's commitment to human security. The establishment of these institutions shows the commitment of Africa's leaders to promoting human security and addressing current challenges facing the African continent. The successful achievement of these objectives is related to the achievement of peace, security, democracy and good political governance, respect for human rights and sound economic management.

Coordination and consolidation at the international and national levels are therefore necessary to promoting national ownership and to restoring the confidence of the people in their own governance systems. In fully realizing any added value that human security brings with its people-centred focus, we must ensure that appropriate synergies amongst the international donor community, the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations are in place to positively support national ownership, national legitimacy and national capacity-building. The various programmes and contributions of resources from the international community must be channelled to make them people-centred and locally driven through national capacities since, ultimately, such initiatives are driven by Governments or become Government undertakings.

The challenge for the United Nations system in effectively delivering on human security will essentially be to improve the Organization's coordination and coherence across the entire system. The United Nations should continue to move quickly to explore better ways to have a holistic impact on the

ground in our countries in order to improve the quality of life and enhance security and stability. Continued fragmentation and competition among various programmes and projects within the United Nations system will compromise the attainment of overall human security. The United Nations must deliver as one if it is to effectively pursue human security goals.

We must remain committed to the undertakings made by our leaders in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and hope that this discussion not only contributes to the further clarification and definition of human security, but also allows us to move progressively ahead in realizing it.

Mrs. Gallardo Hernández (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation welcomes the initiative to convene today's thematic debate of the General Assembly to consider the question of human security. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on this important subject (A/64/701).

El Salvador welcomes the progress made to date in the implementation of paragraph 143 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), in which our heads of State and Government committed to examining and defining the concept of human security.

As the Secretary-General notes in the summary of his report, this concept

> "is based on a fundamental understanding that Governments retain the primary role for ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of their citizens. It is an invaluable tool for assisting Governments in identifying critical and pervasive threats to the welfare of their people and the stability of their sovereignty".

In this context, we believe it important to understand that today the use of force is not sufficient to effectively confront these critical and pervasive threats to security. Instead, we need political, social and environmental systems, as well as a strengthening of the peacebuilding process. Together, these efforts should reduce the probability of conflicts and violence, overcome the obstacles to development and promote human freedoms for all.

As the Secretary-General indicates, "no country can enjoy development without security, security without development, and neither without respect for human rights" (*A/64/701, para. 10*). This triangular relationship heightens the recognition that poverty, conflict and societal grievances can fuel a vicious cycle.

El Salvador, as a member of the Friends of Human Security, today joins other delegations in stressing the importance of mainstreaming the focus on human security across the United Nations system. From our perspective, the added value of this concept and cross-cutting focus lies in the emergence of human security as a response to current and emerging threats that are multiple, complex and interrelated and can acquire transnational dimensions, as we have seen. Similarly, the concept of human security, in our view, calls for an expanded understanding of traditional security in which the protection and empowerment of people form the very basis and purpose of security.

Human security has become one of the major concerns of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and constitutes a target obstacle for sustainable human development. Indeed, people and communities frequently find their real options for living and organizing themselves limited by threats to their personal and proprietary security and to essential public goods. For this reason, we stress our belief that the problem of civic insecurity can have a solution and that this solution is feasible.

However, a strategy based on human development undoubtedly requires action to provide effective security for all. That entails freedom, equality and respect for individual guarantees. In this respect, effective security involves the reduction of crime rates and of the risk of being a victim of crime. Security with freedom requires the protection of all citizens to lead to the absence of fear and the capacity of all citizens to fully develop their potential. Security with equality means universal protection for all citizens, not just for those who can pay for it.

It is also important to point out that the concept of human security recognizes that, in the face of certain unfortunate events, such as natural catastrophes or disasters, people may be confronted by insecurity and sudden privations that may not only set back years of development efforts, but also generate conditions of serious tension.

To conclude, allow me to reaffirm the political will of the Government of El Salvador to continue debating in the General Assembly the undoubted impact of the concept of human security so that we can overcome the challenges of the twenty-first century

and reinforce new paradigms that must, above all, contribute to placing the individual at the centre of the State's activities.

Mr. Tanin (Afghanistan): Before I begin, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting on a topic of such broad relevance. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/64/701), which provides an excellent overview of the growing attention paid to this important issue by Member States and international and regional organizations. Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues at the Japanese Mission for the draft resolution they have submitted today, which Afghanistan is proud to co-sponsor. This meeting is a clear sign that the concept of human security is both increasingly relevant and increasingly recognized, and Afghanistan welcomes this trend and supports further discussion on this concept in the future.

The need for security in Afghanistan overshadows and underlies every effort undertaken by the Afghan Government and the international community to build a stable, secure and prosperous Afghanistan. The most immediate threat to security comes from ongoing terrorism and violence, in particular the murderous acts of the Taliban and Al-Qaida, which, through suicide bombs, assassinations and threats, create an atmosphere of fear and danger for the Afghan people and threaten the security of the region and the world.

However, while we must address this threat immediately, we have learned from experience that killing the enemy will not, in itself, provide security to the Afghan people. We must also break the cycle of violence and conflict born of 30 years of war, which has decimated the social, political and economic fabric of the country and resulted in environmental degradation, wrenching poverty, poor infrastructure and weak social structures. We must address the lack of governance, the rule of law and a stable justice system, and promote outreach to and the engagement of citizens with their Government. We must combat human rights abuses and promote the health and well-being of women, children and other disadvantaged groups. We must ensure that every Afghan has access to education, food, health care and gainful employment, and encourage investment in infrastructure and business. In addition, we must address such transnational issues as crime, narcotics trafficking and border control. We have learned to look beyond military means to sustainable, long-term civilian efforts. We have learned to look beyond simple physical well-being to address the long-term economic, social and political security of the Afghan people.

The idea of human security admirably encompasses this broad range of needs and can guide us in our approach in Afghanistan. First and foremost, the concept stresses that people must be at the centre of our considerations. Our goals, as Governments, militaries and humanitarians, must be to locate and address the threats to the people of Afghanistan, and we should measure our successes by the changes we can bring to their lives. The military forces have already embraced this ideal in an effort to prevent civilian casualties and create sustainable progress. We need to ensure that this principle is also central to the development and humanitarian realms, making sure that every dollar spent in Afghanistan directly benefits the Afghan people.

Secondly, this idea recognizes the essential importance of development in the prevention of conflict and the promotion of security and stability. Desperation caused by poverty, unemployment and competition for resources and water is an obvious and enduring factor that exacerbates conflict and has spread a culture of violence in Afghanistan. The proposed civilian surge will offer Afghans a chance to live in peace and help them find a way to take care of their families without resorting to violence or illegal activities.

Thirdly, this concept addresses the need both to look for local, contextualized ways to repair the damage of conflict, including through peace processes, and to encourage regional cooperation to address the international aspects of the conflict. In Afghanistan, the awareness that military means cannot solve the conflict has led the Government to introduce reintegration and reconciliation programmes in the hope of repairing broken social structures and encouraging national unity, while engaging in intense regional dialogue to build trust and foster cooperation on these and other issues. Without the full engagement of the Afghan people, the Government and society can never hope to build a strong, independent nation, and without a constructive partnership with the region, Afghanistan's efforts will not be sustainable.

Fourthly and perhaps most importantly, human security looks to strong societies and strong institutions

as the core protection mechanisms against possible destabilizing factors. The recent strategy endorsed in London focuses on strengthening Afghan capacity through training, mentoring and resourcing so that Afghans can be invested in our common project and feel a sense of responsibility for its success. In addition, it emphasizes the importance of building a strong Government with stable institutions that is capable of representing its citizens and responding to their needs and concerns.

Human security is not a new concept. As Governments, our primary responsibility is and always has been to the well-being of our people above all else. However, with conflicts increasingly involving non-State actors, and transnational and recurring conflicts becoming more and more common, the international community must truly embrace the reality that conflicts have broad and varied causes and require comprehensive and contextualized responses. The concept of human security is essential to guiding domestic and international reactions to these emerging trends.

Mrs. Aitimova (Kazakhstan): At the outset, allow me to express my delegation's sincere appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this important meeting to discuss the concept of human security. As a member of the Friends of Human Security, our delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his immediate response to our request for a detailed and in-depth report on this critical issue of concern.

Now, five years after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 60/1, this report on human security (A/64/701) is being considered on the eve of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It should be noted that the concept of human security contributes to our work to achieve the historic goals included in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Millennium Development Goals. The close links between the MDGs and human security enhance the importance of ensuring security for every human being if those goals are to be reached.

Kazakhstan fully supports the interlinkage of social, economic, political, environmental and cultural prerequisites for the achievement of equal opportunities and rights, as well as the development of human potential, an important component of creating sustainable human security.

Despite concerns put forward regarding possible or perceived interference in the internal sovereignty of States, it should be understood that the use of force is not envisaged in the application of the concept of human security. Moreover, early prevention policies designed to address societal issues are key components of promoting the concept of human security and maintaining a sustainable basis for the promotion of peace and conflict prevention. Kazakhstan fully supports the definition of human security as freedom from fear, including fear of weapons of mass destruction. With a view to achieving such a freedom from the nuclear threat, Kazakhstan has completely rejected nuclear weapons and removed them from our soil. This action contributed to establishing a more robust security architecture for the world.

Internal stability and inter-ethnic and inter-faith peace and harmony are also essential components of a democratic social structure and the peaceful development of civil society. The multi-ethnic and multi-confessional consent of Kazakh society has been identified as the main priorities of State policy to ensure a stable society. Kazakhstan, as the host country for the Congresses of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, offers a model of a society free from fear and want through respect for the cultures and religions of all people.

Our delegation commends the political initiatives of the Member States to promote the concept of human security at the regional and subregional levels and the building of a new human rights architecture. Kazakhstan proposes a review of field-based prospects for human security by the United Nations economic and social regional commissions, such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific or the Economic Commission for Africa. Taking into account the significant efforts made to transition the concept of human security into a practical sphere, operational activities accompanied by funding and management issues should be addressed.

Over and above projects of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security that address long-term challenges, we are also concerned about the impact of climate-related emergencies on human security. The need for rapid responses to emergency conditions makes the mobility, adequacy and predictability of the

Trust Fund an important priority. As a member of the Friends of Human Security, my Government supports voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund. I also suggest giving new impetus to the Trust Fund for Human Security in order to revitalize traditional donors and innovative measures to attract voluntary contributions.

Kazakhstan highly appreciates the funding of projects in Central Asia, which accounts for the second largest funding level worldwide. My country also appreciates the activities of the Trust Fund for Human Security in the recovery process of the Semipalatinsk region by raising living standards through income generation, access to microcredit and the empowerment of the population.

During the peacebuilding process, human security can play a vital role in the protection and promotion of the human rights and freedoms. In such cases, Kazakhstan suggests that, in order to pay due attention to the concept, it be included as the cornerstone of resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and of outcome documents of the Security Council dealing with the impact of armed conflict on vulnerable groups such as women and children.

In conclusion, allow me express my country's hope for the fruitful mainstreaming of human security in the activities of United Nations Member States and for the successful application of the concept of human security in the United Nations agenda.

Mr. Barton (United States of America): The United States sees human security, which is based on dignity and empowerment, as a valuable framework for approaching global progress. Implementing human security means a people-first approach focusing on the well-being of people and protecting them from pervasive threats such as poverty, disease, conflict and hunger: threats that endanger civil society, governmental legitimacy and economic prosperity.

The concept of human security reflects the values of the United States. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in his 1941 state of the union address, brought forth the idea that security is founded upon every individual in the world being able to enjoy four essential human freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. President Obama echoed those sentiments in a speech on 20 November 2006 in which he stated that

> "we must realize that the freedoms that [Franklin Roosevelt] once spoke of — especially freedom from want and freedom from fear ... are only realized once the personal and material security of a people is ensured as well".

We welcomed the release earlier this spring of the Secretary-General's report on human security (A/64/701), in which he indicated that protecting human security means protecting fundamental freedoms. Human security and national security are inextricably linked, with each supporting the realization of the other. For example, by creating governance structures and laws that protect human rights or by developing economic mechanisms which provide business opportunities, we are able to create security and support basic needs. When people are allowed to live freely and are empowered to achieve their full potential, it is not only the individuals who prosper, but their nations as well.

It is, of course, up to each individual nation to design and decide upon the appropriate mechanisms to protect the freedoms of its citizens and guarantee human security. In this way, we believe that the notion of human security should be considered in the light of the need to have national ownership of development initiatives.

The Secretary-General's report on human security is consistent with our belief that we must use a holistic approach, including in particular the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The United States has a strong desire to cooperate closely with other nations to create smarter, more effective strategies and governance structures that can prevail over threats to human security, address common challenges and achieve the MDGs in a sustainable way by 2015.

The United States would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for the opportunity to share our perspective on human security.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): Let me first of all join previous speakers in thanking the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting to discuss the notion of human security. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the issue (A/64/701).

To date, a number of definitions have sought to capture the essence of human security, starting with a

broad one encompassing freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to live in dignity. The report is singularly accurate in pointing out that there are a number of competing definitions of human security. On the one hand, this proves that the concept has garnered the attention of the international community. But on the other, it demonstrates that the international community is still struggling, after many years, to agree upon a single all encompassing formulation. That does not bode well for our efforts. The simmering debate about the concept of human security should not distract us from the heart of our work; rather, it should unite us further in achieving what the founders of the United Nations wished to realize.

The United Nations is a forum where States debate and argue on how to address the multiple challenges facing humanity. Poverty, the welfare of societies, pandemic diseases and the prevention of armed conflicts are some of the major issues that have to be addressed by the United Nations. The Charter, for that reason, founded various entities that are meant to bring nations together to ponder multiple solutions to our past, present and future challenges.

New concepts arise from time to time. Some have been well received; some unfortunately have to be redefined. The sprawling "securitization" of issues in the United Nations epitomizes this trend: there is a tendency to amplify old and new concepts by aligning them with security. We heard about health security, food security and human security. We fully understand that many issues are interlinked and interrelated; hence there is a need to bring them forward. However, the mark of a good concept is when it meets the test of time and addresses present and future challenges.

For Indonesia, the exact formulation of these sprawling issues is a secondary question. First and foremost, this is about the sustainability of our efforts ranging from providing basic health care to strengthening our law enforcement institutions. These multilayered efforts are intended to ensure that individuals and societies can achieve their most ardent dreams and hopes. That is the reason why States are created. States exist to open the door of opportunities and create a platform for their citizens to enjoy their basic rights and develop to their fullest potential.

That is the essence of human security, and that is the essence of the United Nations.

The Secretary-General has made a strong case regarding the operational side of the issue. The operational side of this issue is less about whether it falls under the framework of human security or not. It is about how the multiple United Nations entities that are funded through regular and voluntary contributions can make a difference at the operational level.

Operationalizing this human security can be achieved by having United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, work more efficiently and effectively in the delivery of their services.

Indonesia, like many others, stresses the basic principles enshrined in the Charter, which emphasize respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention. We adamantly support the maintenance of these principles, which hold countries together.

Governments retain the primary role for ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of their citizens. However, Governments are equally accountable to their citizens. States are bound to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms not only of their citizens, but also of those under their jurisdiction.

Finally, the report of the Secretary-General is indeed an important source for further deliberation. Let me assure the General Assembly of my delegation's readiness to take an active part in its constructive discussions of the notion of human security, in line with the consensus of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1).

Mr. Bui The Giang (Viet Nam): I thank the President of the General Assembly for convening two days of plenary meetings and an informal panel discussion on human security as a follow-up to the commitment we collectively made at the 2005 World Summit. I also thank the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/64/701.

While making intensive preparations for the Summit to be held in September to review the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we all recognize the multidimensional, complex and interwoven threats that not only could hinder the accomplishment of the MDGs, but could also reverse hard-earned development progress in many parts of the world. According to the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which concluded

only yesterday in Incheon, in the Republic of Korea, in Asia and the Pacific alone 11 countries may not meet the MDG on poverty reduction.

Apart from traditional threats to security, non-traditional ones — ranging from terrorism and multiple categories of transnational crime to natural disasters, epidemics, destitution and even economic and financial crises, to name but a few — have increased in both number and impact, rendering human lives more vulnerable and unsecured. Multidimensional, complex and interwoven in nature as they are, those non-traditional threats call for comprehensive responses that must be people-centred, context-specific and preventive. Against this backdrop, we welcome discussions on human security with a view to better understanding this concept, its relationship with non-traditional insecurities, possible responses to non-traditional insecurities, and the application of the human security concept in multilateral diplomacy, particularly through activities in the name of the United Nations.

As expressed more than once at this forum, my delegation totally shares the view that the State is to undertake the primary responsibility for ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of its individual citizens and communities, and that human security does not entail the use of force against the sovereignty of States, but rather focuses on fostering Government and local capacities and strengthening the resilience of both to emerging challenges.

Of course, in today's globalized world, where interdependence among nations has reached an unprecedented level, international cooperation, assistance and partnership are indispensable. Furthermore, such cooperation, assistance and partnership can be most effective only when and if they take into account specific social, economic, political, historical and cultural conditions, respect the ownership of local stakeholders, and comply with the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter.

In analysing the linkages between the human security concept and the different priorities of the United Nations as described in the Secretary-General's report, my delegation believes that our Organization's attention should be focused on hunger eradication, poverty alleviation and socio-economic development, for hunger, poverty and underdevelopment represent the root causes of the many threats and challenges, traditional and non-traditional, that the international community is currently facing. This belief also comes from our understanding that these are the very areas in which the United Nations, with its vast and diverse experience and expertise, can make best contributions.

As a member of the Friends of Human Security, Viet Nam has proactively participated in the elaboration of the human security concept at the United Nations as well as in many regional and international discussions on the issue. More importantly, we have been doing our utmost to ensure the effective implementation of people-centred policies and strategies. This is because we have consistently considered the human factor to be the driving force for and ultimate goal of our national development. Our efforts over the years and subsequent encouraging results in implementing the MDGs, reducing poverty and improving both the material and the spiritual living standards of the population represent nothing but the practical application of the human security concept as we perceive it to strategy and policy priorities in our country-specific circumstances and conditions.

In the same vein, and fully aware of the importance of the international dimension, we look forward to greater cooperation, assistance and partnership from the international community, the United Nations system in particular, in dealing with the current and emerging threats and challenges Viet Nam is confronting, especially those posed by climate change, the spread of HIV/AIDS, and trafficking in persons. On our part, we are willing to join initiatives and contribute to endeavours along this line.

Mr. Pankin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation participates with interest in today's discussion, which we believe should bring the international community closer to a common understanding of the concept of human security. This mandate derives from paragraph 143 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), in which we committed ourselves to discussing and defining the notion of human security in the General Assembly. Reaching a common agreed definition of that term is essential if we wish to further integrate the concept into the activities of the United Nations system. We are prepared to play an active and constructive role in the consultation process.

It was in the context of that challenge that we read the Secretary-General's report before the Assembly (A/64/701). We have drawn useful information from the report on what is being done to promote the concept, attempts to propose a definition for it, its links to State sovereignty and the responsibility to protect, and the national and regional initiatives that have been undertaken to that end.

The report recommends that we discuss how the concept of human security can be mainstreamed into the work of the United Nations. However, we feel that the focus of the report and our work should be not on jointly promoting a concept that has yet to be agreed, but on developing an understanding of human security. In that respect, the report unfortunately does not provide a comprehensive basis for taking substantive decisions at this stage. The attempt contained in the report to propose a definition of human security that has been referred to over a number of years in various contexts illustrates the absence of a single approach. Further, substantive and serious negotiations are needed, taking account of the views and positions of all Member States.

As part of this endeavour, we would like to offer a number of thoughts. First of all, a constant theme of the report is that we must revisit the paradigm of security and emphasize the security of the individual. But it does not address important issues such as national defence and State security. We agree with the report's understanding that Governments retain the primary role in ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of their citizens. That is precisely why, in our view, ensuring State security — to which the report, unfortunately, makes no reference whatsoever — is so important. Surely, human security can be guaranteed only within a secure State.

Secondly, we are pleased to note that one purpose of the concept is to enhance State sovereignty. But we must observe that the concept is being promoted also in the absence of strong and stable institutions capable of deploying targeted responses to eliminate causes of weakness, thereby building the capacity of Governments and individuals. Indeed, implementing the report's recommendations for carrying out such measures at the regional and subregional levels to address issues of social and economic development could lead to interference in internal affairs and violations of State security. Likewise, it is not clear who would define the threat level justifying such measures, or how this would be done and according to what criteria.

We view positively the report's repeated references to the idea that human security does not entail the use of force against the sovereignty of States. This concept must be clearly distinguished from that of the responsibility to protect, which requires extremely clear wording with no room for ambiguity.

Thirdly, section E, on prevention of violent conflicts, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, is not particularly convincing. While stressing "protection and empowerment" (*A/64/701, para. 51*) of people, we must not lose sight of the core principle of peacebuilding activities: that countries bear responsibility for defining and pursuing their own priorities.

Fourthly, we welcome the attention the report pays to human rights standards. The emphasis on economic and social rights is, of course, important in the context of the current financial and economic crisis. But a number of other factors are absent, such as religious beliefs, traditional values and the rights and interests of the individual, and others are viewed with no reference to the interests of the society in which an individual lives. The whole issue of the individual's responsibility to society is totally ignored.

Fifthly, it is not entirely clear to us what contribution the concept of human security makes to addressing current economic, climatic and food problems. We are concerned that promotion of the concept could lead to duplication of international efforts in those spheres and could have a negative impact on global systems intended to respond to such threats. It is therefore important to carefully determine the added value of these elements of the concept.

As we understand it, the concept of human security can become an effective tool for attaining the goals of international cooperation only if its definition clearly states that its main purpose is to ensure harmonized development of human capacity in the social and economic sphere. And the concept can be put to use only if it is fully in line with the provisions of the Charter. Activities under the banner of human security must not duplicate or replace work already being done by the United Nations; nor must they impinge on the prerogatives of the relevant United Nations organs and agencies, including the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Human

Rights Council, the Commission on Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Russia is ready, on the basis of what I have just outlined, to continue to actively discuss this concept in order to arrive at a definition of human security.

Mr. Patriota (Brazil): Let me first highlight some important aspects dealt with by the Secretary-General in his report (A/64/701): first, the lofty ideal of protecting vulnerable individuals and their communities and promoting their well-being; secondly, the focus on cooperation as a tool for achieving this idea; thirdly, the recognition of the complex nature of challenges to the security and well-being of mankind, and therefore the need for multidimensional responses to these challenges; and fourthly, the importance of social participation and the involvement of local actors in finding solutions to their problems.

As surely as we recognize the need not to intervene in domestic affairs of another State, our collective consciousness entails a stance of non-indifference regarding the suffering of any human being, no matter where he or she is. Emphasis should be placed, however, on the primary role of the State in ensuring human security. This debate, with its focus on the individual and on local communities, cannot disregard the role of the State in promoting policies for the well-being of its own population.

Paragraph 143 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1) spells out an agreement to discuss and define human security in the General Assembly. That agreement passes over the fact that the United Nations membership has never actually achieved a common understanding of what human security actually means and the question of whether it has the potential to become a useful or functional notion in addressing issues of concern to the international community.

The report of the Secretary-General, for which we are thankful, recognizes that definitions of human security are various and diverse, which is another way of expressing the lack of a shared understanding of the term. The 2005 World Summit Outcome was careful not to mix human security with the more complex and sensitive issue of the responsibility to protect, referenced in the document by means of the carefully crafted paragraphs 138 and 139. As far as the 2005 World Summit Outcome text is concerned, the two issues are formally unrelated.

Human security seems to encompass many different things at the same time, from climate change to pandemics to protection of children to violence against women to trade in small arms and light weapons. As a tool for addressing everything, it may in practice achieve very little.

The report lacks objectivity in the treatment of these challenges. The fact that human security can be applied in so many different contexts, not all of them necessarily interrelated, is testament to its limitations as a theoretical tool. We are left with a proposal that seems, first and foremost, a moral call in defence of the human being. Is has, therefore, limited usefulness for the achievement of integrated and multidimensional solutions, despite its undisputed moral value.

Many if not all individual areas of concern to human security mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General already constitute well recognized priorities of the United Nations system, be they the protection of human rights, social and economic development, conflict resolution, peace, security, reduction of poverty, gender issues, legal empowerment, et cetera. Many of these questions have been the object of extensive multilateral decision-making and fit into specific and accomplished frameworks. Adding a human security layer to those existing frameworks does not seem, at first glance, to provide added value. In fact, disruption and confusion could very well be the result.

It is not particularly reassuring to read that the concept of human security implies an "expanded paradigm of security" (*A/64/701, para. 9*). If the intention is to bring the welfare of human beings to the fore, we should definitively steer away from linkages with security, and rather move towards the realm of humanism, social inclusion and solidarity, in particular with those in the most vulnerable positions. These are values the Government of Brazil abides by and the universality of which it would be happy to promote and support.

Our recognition of the links between human development and security should not reinforce a negative trend of indiscriminate use of force and recourse to Chapter VII of the Charter as a means of dealing with world affairs, to the detriment of cooperation and global solidarity.

In particular cases currently faced by the international community, where the lives of civilians have been put at risk and the notion of collateral damage has been applied in justification, how useful in practice would the concept of human security be as a means of improving the living conditions of those affected and holding perpetrators to account? Perhaps the answer to this question might shed some light on the effectiveness of human security as a workable concept in practice.

The Secretary-General's report asserts that "today's global flow of goods, finance and people increase[s] the risks and uncertainties confronting the international community" (*para. 10*). This seems to be a recognition that globalization can be as much a positive as a negative force for the promotion of human well-being. Instead of addressing the root causes of global instabilities, unbalances and asymmetries that reduce the margins for increased human welfare in the less developed corners of the world, the concept of human security would rather be looking to respond to the ex post impacts of global crisis, at the micro and local levels. This is not the preventive approach to be favoured.

In fact, if we want to be serious about putting humans first, we should muster our efforts in the reform of the international economic, trade and financial systems and regimes so as to increase the voice and representation of countries most in need, in order to design a world system more supportive of their development prospects. We should not limit our ambitions to the objective of merely "[coping] with current and future crises" (*para. 36*), or simply "[helping] address the social and human impacts of the crisis" (*Ibid.*) or indeed to taking note of economic unilateralism as a fact of life, of which the world's less fortunate and most vulnerable are the helpless victims. We should seek to understand why is it that

> "basic lifesaving treatments are still not available to large segments of the population, leading to significant levels of lost productivity and unacceptable rates of preventable death". (*para. 42*)

We should address the root casus of that reality. The concept of human security cannot be a vague instrument intended to take care of the plight of humans as if it were the expression of a self-correcting invisible hand.

We will be able to recognize value in the notion of human security when we succeed in establishing clear limits and, therefore, clear meaning. Above all, it should be construed as a notion with practical relevance that does not overlap with or replace other important notions and instruments at our disposal.

Mrs. Horváth Fekszi (Hungary): The Republic of Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Spain on behalf of the European Union.

Hungary would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this thematic debate on human security, as well as the Government of Japan for its efforts to tirelessly promote that concept. We welcome the Secretary-General's report (A/64/701), which provides a comprehensive study on the concept of human security and promotes awareness of the issue.

Hungary believes that the Secretary-General's report constitutes a valuable contribution to reaching a common understanding of the concept of human security, a new and comprehensive approach to the security of individuals that connects security with human rights and development.

Besides the universal, people-centred and interdependent character of the concept of human security, early prevention is also an important part of the concept. Bearing in mind the clear distinction between the concept of human security and the principle of the responsibility to protect, as outlined in the report, it is clear that in countries where genocide, ethnic cleansing or other war crimes are taking place, an area of freedom from fear and freedom from want simply cannot exist.

As an institution-building effort in the field of the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities, Hungary prepared last year a feasibility study on the potential establishment of a Budapest centre for the international prevention of genocide and mass atrocities. It is our belief that such an institution could encourage worldwide cooperative efforts in the forthcoming years to establish a well-functioning system for the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities, through a dynamic and systematic approach of early action mechanisms. We consequently believe that this could effectively contribute to the promotion of the concept of human security from the point of view of early prevention.

Hungary agrees that the concept of human security, founded on the promotion of human rights, which are the prerequisites to ensure a broader and people-centred concept of security, could become an important tool in tackling the multiple crises and interconnected challenges our world currently faces. We support the recommendations of the present report and believe that periodic reporting on the progress in mainstreaming human security in United Nations activities will help in further developing this complex concept.

Mr. Srivali (Thailand): First and foremost, my delegation would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this formal meeting and for organizing the thought-provoking informal panel discussion this morning on "People-centred approaches: The added value of human security", which offered valuable insights on the application and utility of the human security concept in many different countries.

As a member of the Friends of Human Security and of the Human Security Network, Thailand warmly welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on human security (A/64/701). It is a timely and relevant submission, as well as an important contribution to the discourse on human security here at the United Nations, identifying, among other things, major human security developments and initiatives worldwide.

There is no single definition of human security. Yet despite that, the concept has not only garnered increased attention, but also gained significant momentum all over the world. Here at the United Nations, we place importance, as we should, on defining concepts, and we have spared no effort in trying to clear a well defined space for human security. Yet around the world, this concept has already taken root in a common and growing understanding that human security is a people-centred, holistic approach that has utility in our world of interrelated and complex threats which often have blurred boundaries and require complex and coordinated responses.

As noted in the Secretary-General's report, Thailand was the first country to establish a ministry dedicated to human security and social development. For Thailand, the concept of human security relates very closely to human development and our national socio-economic development agenda. As a developing country, Thailand places more importance on freedom from want than on freedom from fear, although we emphasize that any discussion of human security should take into account a balance between the two, allowing our people, in the end, to live in dignity.

But perhaps the definitive understanding of human security, for Thailand, is that in all our efforts to develop sustainably, the human being must be at the centre of policy-making. This should not be taken to mean that the concept of human security excludes State security or State roles, but rather that it incorporates all of these in a holistic approach in order to focus, or refocus, on the individual, recognizing that the individual can contribute enormously to the development of the country.

The human security approach, in Thailand's experience, is clearly evident in our efforts and in the formulation of our policies combating threats such as transnational crime, in particular trafficking in persons, and the problem of narcotic drugs. In the realm of health as well, our human-security-oriented policies are evident in our efforts to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS, in our dealing with various pandemics in our region and in our efforts to promote universal access to health care and medicine. In all these dealings, we have placed the human being squarely at the centre of the equation, which we view as the most effective manner of reaching sustainable solutions and meaningful impact and the most logical approach in our aspiration to protect, secure and develop the full potential of human beings.

Thailand is proud to be part of the growing family of supporters of human security, and we aspire to learn from all countries how they view the concept — its utility as well as its limitations — to contribute, in an important manner, to a common understanding of a concept and approach that has proven useful for a growing number of countries.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.